

RACING 37
FALKINGTON THE
FAVOURITE FOR
KEY CLUB

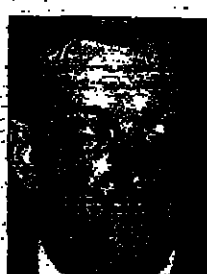
Injuries
threat
to Graf
and
Agassi



JOSEPH HELLER

The struggle to follow *Catch-22*

Slow progress to closing time, page 37



GHOST OF VICHY

France haunted by a pro-Nazi past

Shooting of René Bousquet, page 9



GEORGE SOROS

The Bundesbank is threatening Europe

Down with the mark, page 27

MEDIA
ON
WEDNESDAY
Page 30

THE TIMES

No. 64,666

WEDNESDAY JUNE 9 1993

45p

As thousands flee, the dead must lie where they fall in the bloody fields of Travnik

BRITISH peacekeepers witnessed Muslim soldiers shooting Croat civilians in cold blood yesterday as the fighting intensified in central Bosnia. In Travnik, the dead lie in the fields where they fell. With the Croats crushed between the Muslims and the Serbs, and some reported even to be taking refuge with Serb troops, the deafening intensity of the fighting is such that any attempt to recover bodies would be suicidal.

Yesterday automatic weapons clattered around us as the British army Warrior armoured vehicle that we were with came under attack in the hills above the Turkish-built town. The crew returned fire with heavy machineguns, raking the fields where the snipers had lain in wait.

The rout of the Croat army by Muslim forces is all but complete. The Bosnian Muslims are generally seen as the victims in this war, with Croats or Serbs the aggressors. The Muslim crushing of the Croats at Travnik may change this.



Bill Frost saw the horror that was Travnik yesterday. Hundreds were killed as Muslims turned on former Croat allies in one of the most vicious exchanges of the war

out the morning as Croat refugees streamed east towards Vitez. British army officers believe that hundreds have died in the fighting but accurate estimates are all but impossible.

At a Muslim-held village, three young fighters sprinted across the road waving wildly at an approaching Warrior. One told us: "There are mortars and snipers in the field there." As he pointed towards a Croat position, there was a sustained burst of automatic fire. Bullets hit a wall just yards from us.

As the sniping continued, the Warrior executed a three-point turn. As we travelled back down the road, a heavy mortar rumbled close by and a machinegun opened up from a wooded hillside. We passed a Warrior patrol heading for the checkpoint we had left. Minutes later the vehicle opened fire, having come under sustained attack.

A sergeant shouted from the Warrior that all British patrols had been ordered back to base at Vitez. The level of fighting had intensified and there were fears that the Warriors were becoming targets.

Our patrol's progress was slowed by hundreds of refugees trudging from their devastated villages. Weighed down with bundles, boxes and cases, travelling on bicycles, carts and donkeys, they cried out as we passed, asking for water, food and shelter.

An old woman with a blood-stained bandage around her head said that she had been separated from her family. She spoke of her misery, destitution and fear and asked why the United Nations seemed unable or unwilling to help. "We need shelter, we need food and we need protection. They offer nothing. Why are they here at all?"

Lieutenant Colonel Alastair Duncan, the British commander in Vitez, answered his critics yesterday by saying that if he had more men, more could be accomplished. "We cannot be everywhere at once," he believes that the Bosnian army intends to sweep through the valley to secure a supply route, no matter what the cost.

Mate Boban, the Bosnian Croat leader, claimed that Muslim forces were executing Croats in prison camps in Travnik, although this could not be confirmed independently. He also said that Muslims had expelled all Croat inhabitants.

Boban said in a letter to

international peace mediators, the UN Protection Force, the US State Department and Bosnia's Muslim president, Alija Izetbegovic: "In Travnik, 350 Croats are being held in some sort of camp and are being tortured and killed by firing squads. Ethnic cleansing of Croats is being continued." He said that Bosnian government troops were burning down villages and killing civilians in Travnik's hinterland, an account which could not be immediately verified.

The Croatian militia appears to have taken up positions on high ground south and east of Travnik in anticipation of a Muslim attempt to take control of the valley bisecting central Bosnia.

A spokesman for the militia confirmed that Croat soldiers and civilians from Travnik had surrendered to the Bosnian Serb army on Mount Vlasica, just north of the town. He said that the troops had disobeyed orders to withdraw to nearby Novi Travnik, but added: "I believe they had no other choice." The situation in the town was "a total mess".

Eleven people were killed by shelling in Gorazde yesterday, according to the radio, which also reported Serb attacks on Gradacac and Muslim positions around Brcko.

Jigsaw falls apart, page 10
Brookes cartoon, page 14



Under arrest: police holding the Marquess of Blandford after his capture in a west London flat yesterday

Blandford dragged off to prison

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Marquess of Blandford, heir to Blenheim Palace and the dukedom of Marlborough, was arrested and taken to Pentonville prison yesterday after giving police the slip for five days. His capture, at a flat in west London, involved eight officers, several bruises and a considerable struggle, which leaves him facing two further charges of actual bodily harm against the arresting officers. Shouting and screaming, and displaying a bruised cheek and bloodstained lip, the marquess was escorted from a flat in Cathart Road, Fulham, by officers holding him in an armlock. He was taken to Kensington police station, then to Pentonville, where he will serve 112 days' detention unless he signs a substantial cheque.

The marquess, 37, has been sought since last Friday when he escaped from police and High Court officials trying to arrest him for failure to comply with a court order requiring him to pay £10,534 in maintenance arrears to his estranged wife. In addition to the charges of actual bodily harm, he also faces four charges of escaping from police without paying the fare.

On yesterday's charges the marquess, a self-confessed drug addict, was released on police bail to appear at Horseferry Road magistrates' court on June 30. He was then taken to prison to serve his sentence on the maintenance charge, as he was already in breach of a court order made by Mr Justice Johnson three weeks ago.

Attempts to apprehend the marquess have assumed the elements of farce. Last week a court tipstaff, accompanied by police officers, arrived at his Fulham flat shortly after 7am, having seen the marquess enter the premises. Continued on page 2, col 5

Major clears 'unwise' Mates

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister yesterday publicly rebuked Michael Mates, the Northern Ireland minister, for his decision to give a watch to Asil Nadir, the tycoon who fled to Cyprus.

John Major told the Commons that Mr Mates had made a misjudgment and had been unwise, but insisted that it was not a "hanging offence". Mr Mates recognised that with hindsight "it would have been better if he had not done it".

With Mr Mates sitting several places away from him on the government front-bench, Mr Major clashed with John Smith, the Labour leader, over the representations made by Mr Mates and Michael Heseltine in Mr Nadir's case. Mr Smith branded them a "shabby and unseemly affair

of no credit to this administration". Mr Major denied the ministers had acted improperly in raising the case of Mr Nadir, who escaped while facing 13 charges of fraud and false accounting involving £13 million.

It emerged that a senior Downing Street official had twice interviewed Mr Mates, on Monday and yesterday, to obtain a full brief of the events that led to the controversy and to prepare Mr Major for questions that might have been thrown at him yesterday. "There was apparently no personal contact between Mr Major and Mr Mates before yesterday's Commons exchanges. Mr Major was said by officials to have given Mr Mates a "trap over the knuckles" with his remarks in the House but he did not regard the minister's behaviour as a reason to dismiss him.

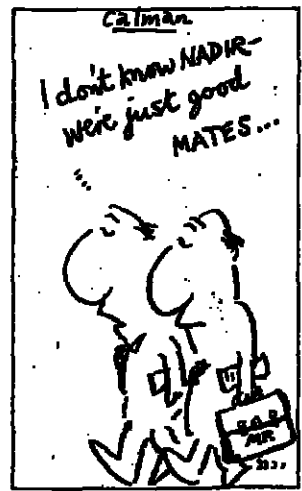
Mr Major said he was

assured Mr Mates had no financial involvement with Mr Nadir or his companies either before he became a minister or since. Both Mr Mates and Mr Heseltine raised Mr Nadir's case with

Sir Nicholas Lyell, the attorney-general, after approaches by associates of the former chairman of the Polly Peck empire. Mr Major said Mates had been "unwise" to give Mr Nadir the watch, inscribed with the words: "Don't let the buggers get you down."

Mr Smith said it was strange that a man charged with serious offences "should be considered so important that ministers make personal approaches on his behalf to the attorney-general responsible for his prosecution". Mr Smith said that the gift of the watch, with its "supportive" inscription, was bound to undermine the work of the Serious Fraud Office. "Do you think that is the way you want ministers in your administration to behave," he demanded of Mr Major.

Mates relieved, page 8
Diary, page 14



Traffic is halted as Tower bridge expands in the heat

By JAMES LANDALE

THE heatwave yesterday brought unusual sharks to British waters, stopped Tower bridge from closing and almost killed factory workers in the Isle of Wight when three drums of cleaning fluid exploded after being left in the heat. Hot weather looks set to continue today but rain will spread from the west in the evening.

Tower Bridge would not shut for the second consecutive evening as the metal of the 99-year-old bridge expanded in the heat. Having opened to allow boats

through, the bridge became stuck in the open position for 90 minutes, causing jams.

The M11 in Hertfordshire was closed after speeding motorists tore up tarmac that had melted in the heat. Police had imposed a 30 mph speed limit between junctions 8 and 9 southbound. A police spokesman said: "Drivers ignored the speed limit and this caused the repaired area to lift and peel off." Police hope to reopen the motorway today.

Workers at a factory in the Isle of Wight had a lucky escape when three chemical drums exploded after being

left in the sun. A 45-gallon drum of acetone, a cleaning fluid, burst into flame outside Avon Inflatables at Cowes.

Fishermen claimed the weather was attracting thresher sharks to British waters after a 13ft specimen weighing 470lb was caught off Poole in Dorset. John Burgess, chairman of Poole and District Fishermen's Association, said: "This kind of shark could bite you, but I've never heard of a shark-bite incident in British waters."

The highest temperature, around 84F, was recorded in central London.

Forecast, page 22

Judge under fire for freeing child sex man

By RICHARD DUCE

JUDGE Ian Starforth QC, 71, was last night at the centre of a controversy over freeing a man who tried to have sex with an eight-year-old girl while he was babysitting.

The judge said he was letting Karl Gambrell, 21, go free because he believed the girl was no angel. Last night the girl's mother said the judge had implied that her daughter led Gambrell on.

Outside Winchester Crown Court she said: "How can you say that a man was led on by an eight-year-old girl? You get more for a motoring offence

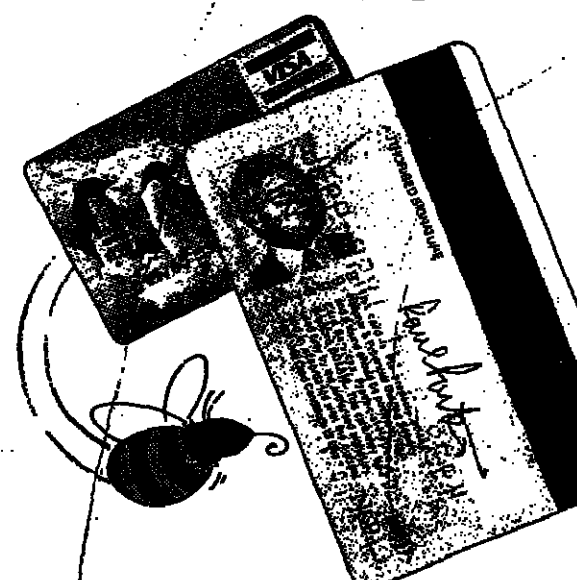
nowadays than you do for abusing a child."

Gambrell was placed on probation for two years after admitting attempted unlawful intercourse. Judge Starforth told him: "Little girls are not there for you to indulge your sexual activities. However, I have been provided with information which leads me to think she was not entirely an angel herself."

Dr Susan Edwards, a legal expert on sex crimes, said last night: "This is absolutely outrageous."

Judge criticised, page 3

NO FEE.



NO DOUBT...

...With N&P's VISA Photocard - The Only One Available Nationally. For details of N&P's new VISA Photocard, the only Photocard available nationally, pop into your local N&P branch or call our free helpline between 8am and 8pm 7 days a week on

0800 80 80 80 No-one's busier on your behalf

N&P VISA Card interest rates are 1.65% per month (21.6% APR). The APR is variable. Minimum monthly payment required is 5% of outstanding balance (minimum £5.00). Credit available subject to status. Written quotations available on request. N&P VISA Card only available to persons aged 18 or over. At 1 June 1993 the interest rates charged on the following cards were: MasterCard Access 23.4% APR inc £12 fee; Net World Access 23.9% APR inc £12 fee; or 22.4% APR with £12 fee for Net World Access holding both Access and VISA cards. Lloyds Access 22.4% APR inc £12 fee. TSB Worldcard 22.9% APR and Halifax VISA 23.9% APR including £10 fee. The information given above is correct at the time of going to press and is subject to change. National & Provincial Building Society, Provincial House, Bradford BD1 1PL.

Arts	37-39
Births, marriages, deaths	16
Chess	6
Crossword	22
Diary	14
Law Report	36
Leading articles	15
Letters	15
Obituaries	17
Weather	22
TV & Radio	43

Saving The Thrift overseas:
Austria Sch 32; Belgium F 45; Canada \$ 75; Cyprus P 25; Cyprus C 100; Denmark Dkr 16.00; Finland Fmk 15.00; France F 12.00; Germany DM 4.00; Gibraltar Gp 50; Greece Dr 350; Holland Gld 4.00; Irish Republic Gp 10; Italy L 1,900; Japan Yen 100; Luxembourg Lfr 40; Malaysia M 275; Malta M 43; Morocco M 25.00; Norway Kr 16.00; Portugal Esc 200; Spain Ptas 166; Sweden Skr 17.00; Switzerland Sfr 2.00; Tunisia Din 2.00; USA \$ 1.00.



9 770140 046237

Clarke warns backbenchers of continued unpopularity

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND PHILIP WEBSTER

KENNETH Clarke yesterday refused to rule out more tax increases in the autumn as he braced his backbenchers for a long period of government unpopularity as the economy climbs slowly out of recession.

In his first interview as Chancellor, Mr Clarke put tackling the £50 billion public sector deficit at the top of his agenda and made clear he was prepared to confront backbench faint-hearts to bring it under control.

The Chancellor issued his uncompromising message as John Major prepared to rally his dispirited backbenchers in today's Commons trial of strength with John Smith over public spending.

The prime minister was boosted yesterday by a fierce denunciation of his backbench critics. Peter Luff, in a message to his Worcester constituency party, demanded an end to "midsummer madness" in the Tory party and attacked "professional conspirators and cabalists" who sneered at Mr Major but had nothing to put in place of his agenda. But William Powell, Tory MP for Corby and a former ministerial aide to Michael Heseltine, declared that the prime minister's survival depended on swift economic revival.

Mr Clarke's remarks put him on a potential collision course with Tory MPs on the centre-right of the party who oppose any more tax increases than those announced by Norman Lamont in his March Budget, which take effect over the next two years. They believe that the £250 billion public spending total should be the chief target of attempts to rein-in the deficit and they served notice yesterday that they would oppose tax increases, particularly on income tax.

Mr Clarke said yesterday he had not decided whether the deficit should be cut through tax increases or spending reductions. His prediction of a long haul ahead for the economy coincided with warnings from MPs and ministers that

Mr Major's hopes of reasserting his political authority are now closely entwined with the pace of the recovery.

Mr Powell said last night on BBC radio: "The prime minister is going to find himself much more in the spotlight about what is happening to our economy."

In the Commons, Mr Major said there was "growing evidence that the recovery is under way across a broad front". But Mr Clarke, who has been examining the Treasury books since replacing Mr Lamont two weeks ago, was more circumspect, referring to a "modest revival".

While backbench sniping at Mr Major continued, Lord Howe, the former foreign secretary, offered support. Defending the Maastricht treaty, Lord Howe, the architect of Margaret Thatcher's downfall, appealed to backbenchers to end their feuding and rally round the prime minister. "It really is time to recognise that the Maastricht debate is over. It's time for the Conservative party to renew the habit of giving loyalty and support to the prime minister, facing very difficult economic problems, which are very largely not of his own making."

Mr Clarke, who caused a sensation after the Newbury election by saying that the government was in a "dreadful hole" said yesterday that it was on course to escape. But he made clear to his party that there could be no swift restoration of its political fortunes. He said: "I am quite resigned politically to the fact that we're going to be unpopular for a considerable time."

Turning around the economy is one of the key things that is on our agenda in order to get back the confidence of the public who elected us and to restore the government's political position. We are determined to sustain the recovery we have already got, to tackle our public finance problems. That's going to be my task between now and November."



Back to business: Lord Tebbit heads into the Lords yesterday for the second day of the Maastricht debate to hear Lord Whitelaw condemn "carping criticism" of the treaty. Debate, page 8; Leading article, page 15

Heath scorns anti-terrorism policy

By JONATHAN PRYNN AND EDWARD GORMAN IN BELFAST

SIR Edward Heath called last night for a complete rethink of the government's anti-terrorism policy in Northern Ireland because of the "intolerable" failure to end the Troubles after 25 years.

In a dramatic and wide-ranging Commons speech, the former prime minister urged the creation of a senior Cabinet position solely devoted to the fight against terrorism and the setting up of a high-level central body to co-ordinate the security forces.

He said Britain was the only country in Europe that had not been able to contain terrorism. Governments in Italy, Germany, France and Belgium had "got on top" of their terrorism problems, he said, while the Spaniards had

restricted theirs to the Basque region. "Then why is it that they have been able to deal with this problem and we have failed?" he asked.

Sir Edward, MP for Old Bexley and Sidcup, said it was "absolutely basic" that governments had to be "cleverer than the terrorists". "You have to be cleverer in intelligence, cleverer in action and cleverer politically," he told MPs, and the government had failed in all three respects.

More people who understood terrorism should be recruited for intelligence gathering, he said. He advocated tax rebates for companies that helped the anti-terrorism effort by installing spy cameras at their premises.

Sir Edward also demanded

closer co-operation with the Irish Republic and the exclusion of Ian Paisley from any peace talks in the province. There was "no point" in proceeding with talks while Mr Paisley remained a participant, he said.

The government's policy also came under fire yesterday from police in Northern Ireland, who renewed calls for far-reaching changes in the law to combat terrorism.

Sam Beattie, chairman of the Northern Ireland Police Federation, told his annual conference in Belfast that the security situation was desperate and getting worse.

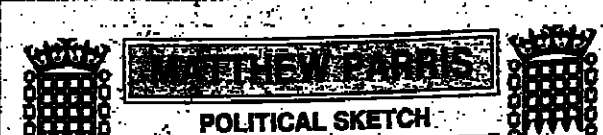
He compared security policy over 23 years to a sinking ship. "It is now a case of being aboard a ship which is sink-

ing, albeit more slowly than it once was, but it is nevertheless still sinking. And with it goes down our expectations that the security situation will ever seriously be addressed."

Mr Beattie, whose organisation represents 11,500 junior and middle-ranking officers in the RUC, many of whom daily face IRA and loyalist paramilitaries, said that if parliament were not considered acceptable then other changes in the law should be considered.

He proposed an end to concurrent sentencing and said people convicted of terrorism should remain behind bars until the Troubles had permanently ceased.

Bombing haunts City, page 6



POLITICAL SKETCH

Entranced by their lordships' exits

As if the world's a stage, remarked an Elizabethan sketchwriter, and all the men and women merely players. One man in his time, he added, plays many parts, the acts being seven ages.

It may well be that Shakespeare had the House of Lords in mind when he wrote. True, the first two ages are not well represented there. The infants, mewling and puking in the nurse's arms, are mostly confined to the House of Commons, and whining schoolboys are more in evidence on Commons select committees.

But of the remaining five ages, their Lordships' House provides examples galore: a whole gallery of them.

The lover, sighing like a furnace, with a woeful ballad made to his mistress' eyebrow.

On Monday, Lord Parkinson, newly installed, his ermine still soft and fluffy, made a ballad, if not to the Baroness Thatcher's eyebrow, then to the ideological contents of her handbag.

Sighing like a furnace, Cecil cried: "I believe passionately that the open trading system is the great guarantor of prosperity."

When he turned to the ERM his ballad became especially woeful. Point by point he supported the objections Lady Thatcher had raised, in her own speech, to monetary union. She stayed to listen.

Then a soldier, full of strange oaths, and bearded like the pard, jealous in honour.

Lord Amery of Lustleigh, bearded like the pard, spared us the strange oaths in his maiden speech, but drew his analogy, as he so often has in his colourful career, from military history. He argued that a Europe without Britain would be a Europe dominated by Germany. And we all knew where that would lead. Their Lordships could smell the rifle-shot.

And then the justice, in fair round belly with good capon lin'd... full of wise saws and modern instances.

As retired prime ministers go, Lord Callaghan of Cardiff is the very pinnacle of sagacious bonhomie. Venerable yesterday in silk tie and reading glasses, his suit of the finest cloth and his white cotton shirt tucked (protesting a little) neatly in, it was hard to remember the howling chaos over which he once presided as prime minister. His mood was of sober prophecy illumined by vast experience.

Maastricht, he said, could save us from the flames of European nationalism. "For every Yugoslavia, there is another waiting to happen... We have seen a rising tide of nationalism in its ugliest form."

We had seen "the bubbling troubles which lurk underneath the surface... and so on, through 'imperatives' through 'distinctive national cultures', 'peace and security' to 'the prize'.

The sixth age slips into the lean and slipshod pantaloon... His big, manly voice, turning again towards childish treble.

There was plainly nothing wrong with Lord Aldington's powers of reason and his argument had force, but the big, manly voice, fear, does turn these days towards the childish treble. "It will take years," he said, to get the structure of the EC right — the "years" emphasised by an involuntary yodel. As to the "specious attractions of a referendum..." "specious" too, was least emphasis by a little squeak on the first syllable.

Last scene of all, that ends this strange eventful history, is second childishness, and mere oblivion. Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans everything.

Reader, let us turn our eyes respectfully from their Lordships' crowded benches yesterday, and end our sketch here.

Amazing New Central Cleaning System cuts housework dramatically.

EASILY INSTALLED IN ANY HOME, ANY SIZE - OLD OR NEW. NO FUSS. NO MESS.

0.0% FINANCE NOW AVAILABLE ON INTEREST FREE CREDIT. Written quotations on request.

Tests have shown that Univac's unique central cleaning system can literally cut hours of housework every week. It's more efficient and effortless than you'd ever imagine.

NO HEAVY, CLUMSY VACUUM CLEANER. NO MESSY BAGS TO EMPTY.

Why carry on vacuuming when you can Univac? No more heavy cylinders to tug around. No discharges to renew regularly - or cable to trip over. And no more ear-splitting noise or recirculated dust either.

POWERFUL UNIVAC IS WHISPER QUIET. Univac's breathtaking, effortless power picks up hairpins, nails - even broken glass, all in its stride. It really deep cleans and also prolongs carpet life. Better still, it leaves you with next to no dusting.

Even cleans the air you breathe - a boon to allergy sufferers.

EASILY INSTALLED IN ANY HOME OLD OR NEW. And far less expensive than you think. Just a few discreet wall or floor mounted sockets (about 3 in the average home) is all you'll see.

Even if you have just decorated you can confidently have Univac installed without the slightest blemish. Then just slot in the 30ft. lightweight hose and hey presto, you have a totally new cleaning experience. No surface is a problem. Stairs, garage, car... clean them all effortlessly and clip hours off housework every week.

See how spectacularly Univac works. Ring now for a no obligation Free Demonstration and full colour brochure.

DELIGHTED USERS SING UNIVAC'S PRAISES

"Superb installation of superb system. For a moderate cost, enables us to clean our house to an exceptionally high standard." A.E. Bursfield, Stalport.

"Delighted. Every corner of the house easily accessible. Even my wife (with her arthritis) finds Univac extremely easy to handle." Mr G.E. Newborth.

"I've dreamed of such a cleaning system, for years... never expected to find one, especially one which could fit existing properties. Fitted in incredibly short time." J.A.P. Rogers.

"Installation excellently carried out after our house had just been completely redecorated. No damage whatever." Mrs G.A.K. Spalding.

CALL FOR FREE HOME DEMONSTRATION OR FREE FULL COLOUR BROCHURE

061-881 2227 24 HOURS, 7 DAYS A WEEK. Or send the coupon now to Univac, Freepost, Manchester M21 2BP. 24 HOURS.

Complete info and send to Univac, Freepost, Manchester M21 2BP.

Please arrange a free no obligation home demonstration. Please send me your free colour brochure.

NAME ADDRESS

POSTCODE TEL

Univac

Blandford arrested and sent to jail

Continued from page 1 with a bicycle. Within minutes he had given them the slip, apparently escaping through an upstairs window and shining down a drainpipe.

Yesterday Sarah Fentiman, the leaseholder of an adjoining flat, arrived shortly after 8am, accompanied by a solicitor, a BT engineer and two police officers. Miss Fentiman said she suspected that electricity and the telephone were being used illegally on her property. The solicitor entered the flat, and returned to report that the marquis was inside.

Two officers then went inside. A Metropolitan police spokesman said that "quite a violent struggle" had ensued. It was claimed that the banister had been broken and that the marquis had wielded a large piece of wood.

Shortly after 8.30 the marquis appeared in the grip of two officers. He was dishevelled and bleeding from the mouth, swearing and struggling ferociously. Reinforcements had been called up and he was bundled into a police van.

On Monday night police received a tip-off that the marquis was in residence, and soon after 10 arrived at the flat, where they arrested a bearded man who entered the front door. The man was arrested and taken to Kensington police station before police were convinced that he was not the marquis.

The arrest of the real marquis took place only hours after the Blenheim heir, or somebody claiming to be him, telephoned the Daily Express and boasted that he had spent the weekend visiting London clubs and enjoying oysters at the fashionable Pont de la Tour restaurant near Tower Bridge. He said that he intended to become the new Lord Lucan, and would never give himself up.

Solicitors specialising in family law pointed out last night that the marquis had been imprisoned for contempt of court rather than for the debt itself. If he paid his maintenance arrears promptly, it would help towards a reduction of his sentence.

Howard reviews naming of runaway

By FRANCIS GIBBS LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE home secretary is reviewing the law after newspapers yesterday printed the photograph of a 16-year-old accused of murder and on the run.

Michael Howard said he would "look at this subject as a matter of urgency" after the publication of the photograph and name of Eyalur Andrews, accused of murdering a legal clerk for 26p.

Senior detectives have voiced concern about the legal restrictions on publication in this case, and about the law aimed at protecting juveniles from publicity. "The legal restrictions are hampering our search for this youngster. He is a very dangerous young man



Andrews sought by police

and may be a danger to himself as well as to the public," a senior officer said last week.

Yesterday Scotland Yard's line was that while the law may be unhelpful, the police did not support its being loosed. Section 49 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 imposes a ban on press publication of any details concerning youths under 18 involved with court proceedings.

Courts can waive the restriction where this is necessary to avoid injustice, for instance, where the interest of justice would be served in publishing details to encourage witnesses to come forward.

The Guild of British Newspaper Editors said the whole issue highlighted the "draconian effects" of section 49.

House sales rise 34% in nine months

Average daily sales of new houses rose by 34 per cent from last September to May, according to the National House-Building Council. There were 657 sales every working day in May against 490 sales a day in September. Elizabeth Male, from the council, said daily sales, which evened out monthly differences, were the best indicator of activity.

Ms Male said she was optimistic that sales would be sustained, although the recovery was still fragile and patchy and prices still depressed. The Halifax calculates the average price of a new house now as £68,874.

The council's monthly totals also rose from 10,798 sales in September to 12,491 in May. The figures, which include sales of new properties to housing associations, show the impact of the government's housing market package that finished in March, when builders completed an extra 2,000 homes.

Group 4 prisoner flees

A remand prisoner was on the run last night after escaping from the custody of Group 4 while being taken from a police station to jail. Christopher Garton fled into the streets of Derby after slipping out of handcuffs as he was being transferred from a police station to a Group 4 vehicle. Group 4 staff chased Garton, 22, but he managed to escape. Nine prisoners have escaped since Group 4 began operating a private prison escort service in the East Midlands and Humberside in April.

Jilted man kills lover

A jilted man shot his girl friend dead with a sawn-off shotgun and wounded a man who tried to protect her before killing himself. Alan Graham, 29, forced his way into a friend's house in Southrop, Humberside, where Samantha Gibson, 19, was staying. George Morris, 73, was shot in the leg.

BA strike averted

The threat of another strike by British Airways check-in staff at Gatwick Airport was averted last night after a dispute over pay and conditions was settled. The GMB general union claimed that the airline had climbed down. BA said it welcomed the agreement, based on last week's settlement of its dispute with the TGWU.

Beverly Allitt moved

Beverly Allitt, 24, who was given 13 life sentences for murder and attacks on babies and children while she was a nurse, has been transferred from Holloway jail in London back to the top security mental hospital at Rampton, North Nottinghamshire. Doctors decided the move was necessary because she needed treatment for anorexia.

Canoe centre sold

The adventure centre at Lyme Regis, Dorset, where four teenagers were on a course when they died in a canoeing accident in March, has been sold. A spokesman for the St Albans centre said it was sold for an undisclosed sum to the PGL group and would be closed "for a review of all operations" until next year, with the loss of 20 jobs.

Prostitutes who stay free of Aids offer clue to researchers

FROM NIGEL HAWKES IN BERLIN

A GROUP of prostitutes who have not caught Aids despite repeated contact with the virus could provide the key to understanding how the disease works.

Dr Francis Plummer of Manitoba University told an Aids conference yesterday that some prostitutes in Nairobi never seemed to become HIV-positive in spite of working in a country where at least 10 per cent of their clients were infected. Some of the women he had studied had remained immune for eight years — "which is extremely unlikely, given what we know about HIV transmission".

He and colleagues from Manitoba and Nairobi University had concluded that the women possessed immunity. Luck could not account for their continued good health, nor was it due to safer sexual practices nor clients not being infected.

The only characteristic that distinguished them from

women who became infected was that tissue-typing showed the cells of their immune systems were of a rare type called A69. Analysis showed that possessing this tissue type apparently reduced the risk of infection at least fivefold.

In the audience as Dr Plummer spoke was Susan Wilson of University College London, who believes that she has the explanation. In work with two colleagues and supported by a small company, she has been studying the differences between those whose Aids progresses quickly and those in whom the disease follows a slower course. Earlier research has shown that these differences are correlated with tissue type.

Miss Wilson's explanation is that some regions of a protein produced by HIV are identical with the molecules produced by the human immune system. This means, she says, that the body mistakes HIV for part of its own

immune system. The result is to turn the immune system on and to begin destroying the body itself, in a mechanism similar to the rejection of foreign materials such as transplanted organs.

The Nairobi prostitutes have escaped this fate, Miss Wilson believes, because their rare tissue type does not match the HIV protein and their immune systems are not turned on. This assumes that Aids is, at least in part, an auto-immune disease in which the body turns against itself, a view which many Aids workers hold.

□ The conference was told by London University and the Public Health Laboratory Service that there are an estimated 27,200 HIV-positive people in England and Wales. They include 14,900 homosexual or bisexual men, 4,500 injecting drug-users, 1,500 infected by blood products and 6,300 people infected by heterosexual intercourse.

'Supermodel' modifications after eight cars burst into flames

Vauxhall recalls Corsas

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

ALL of the 5,000 new-model Corsa cars in Britain are being recalled by Vauxhall after eight burst into flames and four were completely destroyed. The Spanish-made car has featured in one of the most high-profile advertising campaigns launched by the motor trade.

So far 38 cars have been found to have a fault caused by chafing of an electrical cable to the alternator. The company has decided to recall all the cars sold since their launch on April 2.

Vauxhall stressed that no body had been hurt in the fires and that cars would be rectified free of charge. A spokesman said: "We have sent letters to all owners informing them that their cars need attention."

"Although there have been a number of incidents, there have been no injuries and we believe we can clear up the problem fairly quickly in our dealerships."

The recall came to light after



Saw point: Naomi Campbell in one of a series of TV commercials for the new Spanish-built Corsa.

an article by Bob Oxford in the latest issue of the car magazine *Fleet News*. It said: "The fault may have arisen because the cars, which are made in Spain, have to be converted to right-hand drive. That means re-routing the cables on the clutch which may have led to this fault."

The recall will come as a

major embarrassment to Vauxhall, which has advertised its car as Britain's new "supermodel" and used fashion supermodels, including Naomi Campbell, to advertise the Corsa on television.

The television spots featuring the scantily-clad women caused controversy and even led to a small demonstration

by anti-pornography campaigners outside the offices of Vauxhall's advertising agency. The campaign provoked such interest that Volkswagen devised a parody advertisement in which three middle-aged cleaning women adorned a Polo.

The success of the Vauxhall seemed assured when the

British School of Motoring dropped British-built Rover Metros to place a £400 million order for the Corsa, which is made at Zaragoza, for its huge national fleet of cars for learner drivers.

Last month the Corsa entered the top ten list of British best-sellers at number nine, with more than 3,600 sold.

MoD urged to recover cost of war premiums

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

WAR premiums of up to 200 per cent above the normal commercial rate had to be paid by the government when chartering ships to take tanks and other equipment to Saudi Arabia for the Gulf war.

The extra costs, which accounted for £38 million of the total bill of £269 million for all movements to the Gulf by ship and aircraft, were highlighted yesterday in a report by the National Audit Office (NAO).

Examining whether the government obtained value for money in chartering ships to deploy 14,700 vehicles, 87,000 tonnes of ammunition and 7,000 containers to the Gulf, the NAO said the defence ministry should vigorously investigate the possibility of recovering "excessively high commissions" and other excess payments made during Operation Granby.

When chartering civilian general cargo vessels for sailings to the Gulf, the government paid a war premium of about 55-70 per cent. But for the 62 roll-on roll-off ferries chartered, the average premium was 160-200 per cent higher than the peacetime market rate.

Shipowners charged the higher rate because they had to be persuaded to release vessels already employed on commercial routes. They also had to carry dangerous cargoes and there was a threat of mines. There was also competition from the Americans, who were also chartering ships for deployments to the Gulf.

The NAO said the US paid war premiums for chartering roll-on roll-off ferries averag-

ing only 67 per cent. However, the US also paid a retainer to its shipping industry. The government's freight agent denied that the British military premium was higher than that paid by the Americans.

During the build-up to the war, high priority items tended to be sent by air, which, on a pound-for-pound comparison, was 17 times more expensive than by sea.

The NAO said there were also problems in trying to track where all the equipment went. For example, 228 of the 3,400 aircraft pallets sent to the Gulf, worth £580,000 including ancillary equipment, were unaccounted for at the end of the war. At one point, RAF Lyneham, one of the main airheads for transporting equipment to the Gulf, was "within two hours of grinding to a halt" because pallets were not being returned. The RAF had to borrow some from the US Air Force.

There were not enough personnel in the Gulf to check on all the equipment, so the defence ministry could not say exactly when consignments would arrive at operational units. Some critical items, such as satellite communications kit, armour modifications for tanks, machine guns and weapons fuses were "lost to view". This often led to duplicate orders. Eighty containers also remained unaccounted for.

□ Ministry of Defence: Movement of Personnel, Equipment and Stores to and from the Gulf (National Audit Office Stationery Office: £8.95).

Fan pays £26,000 for Garbo letters

By JOHN SHAW

SIXTY-SDX letters from Greta Garbo to a woman friend in Hollywood sold for £26,450 to one of her fans at Sotheby's in London yesterday. In them, the star who always wanted to be alone confessed that when she was, she was miserable.

The letters — the largest group ever to appear at auction — were written to Salika Viertel (1889-1978), a writer who was married to a Hollywood film director. The two women met at a party in 1930, with the result that Mrs Viertel collaborated on the screenplays of several celebrated Garbo films, including *Queen Christina* (1933) and *Anna Karenina* (1935).

The letters are up to seven pages long and were written from various addresses and hideaways in New York, Switzerland and Sweden. A constant theme is Garbo's attempts to avoid people.

There are also precise travel instructions and details of houses she wishes to rent. "It would kill me if I had to go into a hotel," she writes at one point.

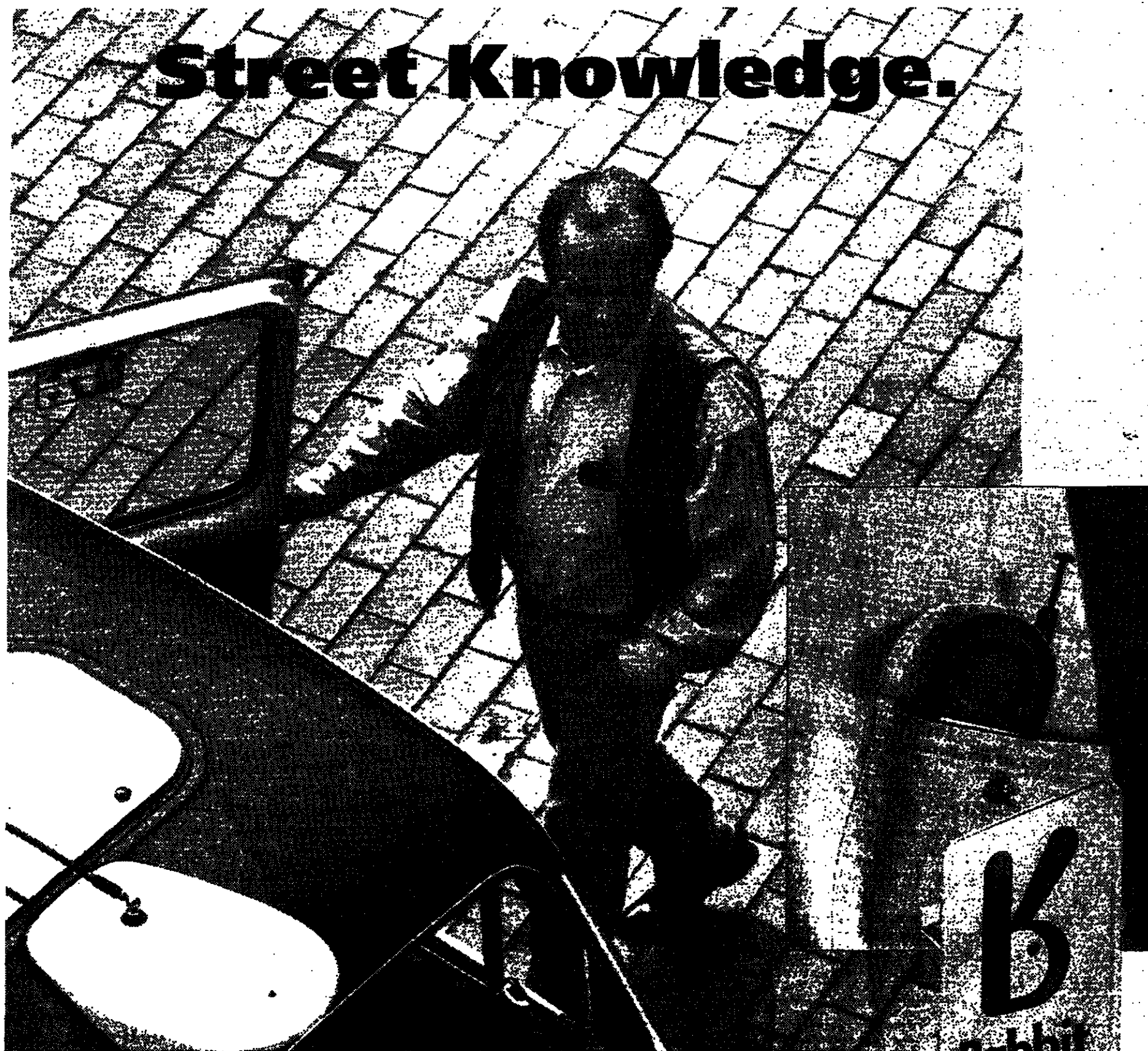
In another letter she says: "I have disappeared in the wilderness. I am practically a prisoner

because I don't want anyone to know I am here." In a third she confesses it is hard and sad to be alone, but sometimes it is even more difficult to be with someone.

The correspondence was bought by David Wolskowsky, a fan who lives in Florida and has a business restoring old buildings. He was bidding on the telephone and said he had been a long-time fan of the star he once met at a tennis party in Hollywood in 1943.

He described her as "a great human-being" and said he would enjoy reading the correspondence. Mr Wolskowsky already has two watercolours purchased at Sotheby's sale of contents from Garbo's New York apartment.

□ The low-cut blouse Marilyn Monroe wore in the film *Bus Stop* (1956) was bought by Pauline Bailey, a Monroe look-alike, for £5,750. Miss Bailey was acting on behalf of David Roberts, who lives in the Channel Islands and is the biggest collector of Monroe memorabilia in Britain. The blouse was expected to fetch between £6,000 and £8,000.



The Street Phone, a Smart Alternative to Payphones.

The Word on the Street.

Knowledge is power. And when a word or two is all it takes to get things moving, it makes sense to speak out. With Rabbit's latest street phone at your fingertips, you choose when. And where. It's the Motorola Silverlink, the smart alternative to coins and cards — simply streets ahead.

This fully featured, standard-battery lightweight telephone has a 30 number memory and all the benefits of digital technology. Such as call quality that puts ordinary cordless or cellular phones to shame. Such as superior call security — so it's almost impossible for anyone else to listen in!

Pocket Sized Outgoings.

This is also a pocket phone that will attract the smart money — people who want to stay in touch but don't intend to pay the earth for the privilege. Subscribing to the Rabbit network is extraordinary value. What's more, average call costs compare with what you'd expect to spend using a callbox.

You can buy a Motorola Silverlink for just £99.99 inc. VAT; out of the shop and back on the street for under £100! After that, subscribing to the Rabbit network service costs £6.00 monthly excl. VAT. With figures like these, it's little wonder that Rabbit is fast becoming the talking point around town.

CHECK OUT THESE IMPORTANT BENEFITS.

- Rabbit. The world's largest digital cordless telepoint network.
- Rabbit. All-British crystal clear base station technology.
- Rabbit. Superior speech quality and greater security.
- Rabbit. Call costs comparable to public callbox charges.
- Rabbit. Network spans hundreds of major towns and routes.
- Rabbit. Cordless calling at many BR and all London Underground stations.
- Rabbit. Cordless phone option in the home or office at standard BT/Mercury rates.

For further information call FREE on 0800 286 286

Hutchison Telecom

Telecommunications from Hutchison Whampoa Limited

RABBIT EQUIPMENT IS AVAILABLE FROM BRANCHES OF DIXONS, CONNET, RUMBLELAW, TEMPO AND QUALITY INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE STOCKISTS. HUTCHISON TELECOM OUTLETS AT: 40 GEORGE STREET, ALTRINCHAM, 52 COUNTY MALL, CRAWLEY, UNIT 5 HARVEY CENTRE APPROACH, HARTLOW, THE GROSVENOR CENTRE, CHESTER, HEMPSTEAD VALLEY SHOPPING CENTRE, GILLINGHAM, THE MARLOWES CENTRE, MENDEL HEMPSTEAD, ARNDALE CENTRE, MANCHESTER, PEACOCKS SHOPPING CENTRE, WOKING, 46 CALVERLEY ROAD, TURBIDIDGE WELLS.

Concern grows over state of British ham

By Tony Dawe

HAM has become so adulterated that manufacturers have been forced to draw up plans to restore its image and offer the consumer a more honest product.

The Times investigation into food frauds has found ham with 20 per cent added water and as many as a dozen extra ingredients. Shoppers are being offered ham containing meat from all parts of the pig, instead of just the leg. It is "tumbled and massaged" before being reformed into easy-to-slice blocks.

The state of British ham is causing mounting concern among consumer groups and trading standards officers. A Consumers' Association survey of leading brands of canned ham said: "Every fifth slice you eat is equivalent to the amount of water added by the manufacturer."

The association found that even leading supermarket chains, including Sainsbury and Tesco, were selling packets of ham with between 13 and 17 per cent added water.

Government regulations require producers and retailers to declare any added water in cooked hams, but the association found some

Some modern ham may bear little relation to the real thing, but consumers like the low price, say retailers.

butchers and delicatessens selling loose hams with added water without labelling them. Roger Hopkins, Suffolk's chief trading standards officer, said: "Traditional standards are being eroded by new technology. Ham is now taken by producers and retailers to mean a number of things."

Many pre-packed hams on sale in supermarkets contain a dozen ingredients in addition to pork, including polyphosphates which are injected into the boned meat before it is "tumbled and massaged", a process which also adds water.

Sugar is then added as a sweetener and to control the extra water as the ham is reformed in a mould. Further additives, often including hydrolysed protein and yeast extract, are often pumped into the meat to provide extra flavouring.

"Some of the ingredients baffle me and I can't work out what they are for," Andrew Garvey, products manager of

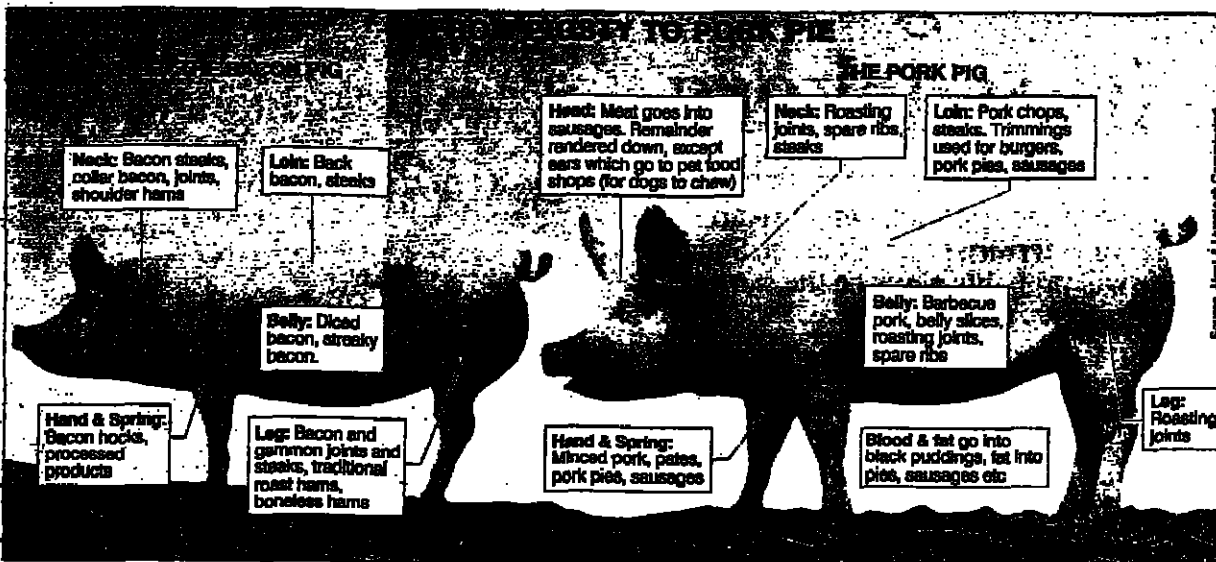
the Meat and Livestock Commission, said.

"The rule seems to be the higher the water content, the more additives you need. We have to do something to enhance the image of some of our products and we could start by promoting traditional ham with no extra water or additives."

As far as Mr Garvey and many trading standards officers are concerned, ham is cooked, cured leg meat. They argue that meat from the shoulder should be labelled as "cooked, cured pig meat using shoulder muscle". There is, however, no legal requirement in Britain restricting the use of the word "ham" to products from any specific part of the pig.

Faced with increasing criticism, the industry is planning to grade the different types of ham available in British stores in an attempt to restore confidence.

A "charter ham" scheme will be announced shortly, enabling consumers to identify



ify traditional hams, which are all meat and those which have been subjected to several treatments.

Philip Mobsby, director of the British Meat Manufacturers' Association, which is preparing the scheme, said: "Our labelling of food is as tight as any country's, our food safety better than most and this scheme will provide even better guidance for shoppers."

Mr Mobsby said: "We seem to be obsessed by the 'how and why' in this country."

"The only way to judge these products is if people buy them — and they do in their millions."

"We are producing ham at prices people can afford and of good quality. In the past ham used to contain 30 per cent fat, but now it is defatted, derinded and deboned. The use of polyphosphates helps bind the modern ham properly and ensures it doesn't drop all over the place. As far as additives are concerned, they are jolly expensive and no-

body uses them just for the sake of it," said Mr Mobsby.

Rob Murdy, a Safeway director, said: "When you see these 'tumble hams' on the counter, it is quite obvious what they are. You can see the different colours with some meat darker than the other. The average consumer understands the product is different because of the lower price. If we said 'let's not have any more tumble ham' there would be an outcry."

"The white 'gunge' which often appears on the surface of bacon as it is cooked is thought to be protein coming to the surface."

"Spitting bacon and the 'gunge factor' are also causing concern. The Meat and Livestock Commission is advising retailers to sell pre-packed bacon in plastic trays with lids as they cause less condensation than tightly-sealed packs. The condensation produces extra water which causes spitting in the pan."

Standards strict, says industry

THE food industry hit back yesterday at *The Times* investigation into its products and claimed they were made with the strictest safety and labelled comprehensively.

Richard George, president of the Food and Drink Federation, said that consumers in Britain had never had "such a choice of wholesome, safe, enjoyable, nutritious and value-for-money products".

Responding to *The Times* reports that shoppers were being deceived by doctored and wrongly-labelled food, he said the food processing revolution had been accompanied by some of the strictest food safety and manufacturing regulations in the world.

He added that the industry would continue to work closely with government and consumer interests to provide additional information on issues of importance.

Gillian Shephard, agriculture minister, said Britain was currently negotiating additional requirements about what should appear on food labels with Brussels. These could include the need to declare mechanically-recovered meat, known as "slurry".



Maitland: warning against excess

Criminals cash in on duty-free quotas

By Ian Murray

CRIMINALS are organising cross-Channel shopping expeditions to capitalise on new EC regulations which allow individuals to import unlimited quantities of alcohol and tobacco for personal use, customs and excise warned yesterday.

A spokesman said that most of the 20 cases where people had been charged since the opening of frontiers in January had been minor. But investigations into one case in Dover and Cardiff had led to 11 people being charged in connection with goods worth £300,000. "There is no doubt that organised crime is moving in," the spokesman said.

To counter the threat a team of 150 plain-clothes "excise verification officers" is touring shops all over the country checking whether stocks have been imported without payment of duty. Another 150 officers will join them later this year.

One inspector caught a Bristol shopkeeper who was fined £1,200 with £100 costs yesterday for selling duty-free beer he bought on board a cross-Channel ferry. Magistrates were told that Ashok Patel bought 960 cans of Fosters lager aboard the ship with the intention of reselling them in his shop.

Colin Jones, for the prosecution, said Patel was caught because the customs investigator noticed that the 500ml cans on sale in the shop were larger than those normally sold in Britain. Patel admitted buying the cans on the ship with the intention of reselling them.

Mr Jones said that this was the first case of its kind involving duty-free goods and the offence could lead to a maximum £5,000 fine and a six-month prison sentence.

In another incident, an antiques dealer from Cheltenham, who imported 4,994 bottles of wine costing £900 from France over the weekend, was yesterday trying to convince customs officers that he intended to use them all during a garden party to mark his goddaughter's engagement. John Patterson was questioned by officers after he returned home with his personal shipment.

Moderation is message for drinkers

YOUNG children should be allowed into pubs to encourage moderate drinking by adults, the Health Education Authority said yesterday (Ian Murray writes).

Responding to Home Office proposals to allow under-14s into bars and cafes, the authority also welcomed ideas for Continental-style licensed cafes which would offer customers a more varied environment for eating and drinking.

The authority said that pubs had a "tired Dickensian image" which operated against the family, while laws banning younger children were outdated and needed to be changed. Landlords would need to be properly trained.

Pubs needed to give more information about the strength of alcoholic drinks, offer more soft drinks and be prepared to set aside no-smoking areas.

The authority report was issued to mark the fifth annual Drinkwise Day, part of the campaign to educate the public about the dangers of drinking too much.

Commenting on the campaign, Sir Donald Maitland, chairman of the authority, said: "We are not killjoys. Drinking to excess kills joy."

The authority advocates "sensible drinking", which means a weekly limit of 21 units for men and 14 for women. A unit is equivalent to a half pint of beer or a glass of wine.

This year, the campaign will try to persuade manufacturers and stores to mark bottles and cans with the number of units they contain. Some supermarkets have already introduced this system on their own brands, but the aim is to have all containers labelled this way, with pumps and optics in pubs also carrying a unit sign.

Leaders in European Business Class.

Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Paris, Brussels, Dublin, Nice, Palma.

With the launch of Diamond EuroClass, British Midland is now setting a new standard in European Business Class travel.

Because British Midland is the first and only airline to offer a real choice of Business Class fares, and real savings on all of its European routes all of the time.

You can choose between three types of fares — a fully flexible Executive Fare, our innovative 3 Day Executive Return and Eurobudget — depending on your requirements.

All three fares give Business Class passengers top class in-flight service, plus advanced seat assignment, priority check-in and priority disembarkation. And all three save you serious amounts of money. For example, you can save up to £106 to Brussels and as much as £125 to Frankfurt.

Just what you'd expect from the only airline that is genuinely committed to delivering top class business travel at realistic fares.

Diamond EuroClass

From	EuroClass Executive	EuroClass 3 Day Return	EuroClass Eurobudget
To:	Return	Executive	Return
	Saving	Return	Saving
AMSTERDAM	£70	£75	£84
BRUSSELS	£46	£76	£106
PARIS	£78	£89	£138
FRANKFURT	£94	£98	£125
DUBLIN	£48	£85	£83
NICE	£126	£172	£212
PALMA	£86	£134	£194

Compared to full Business Class return fares.

British Midland
THE SERIOUS ALTERNATIVE
For further information contact your travel agent or phone 0243 824215/842434

THE NEW WILBUR SMITH RIVER GOD

An epic of sex, death and intrigue in the Valley of the Kings... richly written... packs in the action... excellent!

Daily Telegraph

M

D urged to over cost of premiums

pays £20.00 Garbo letter

After Bishopsgate: tourists are staying away and the police are forced to neglect other priorities

IRA bombing still haunts City workers

By NICHOLAS WATT

MORE than six weeks after an IRA bomb ripped through the heart of the City of London, some workers are too traumatised to return to work. Of the 36 people injured by the explosion in Bishopsgate, many remain on extended leave. Companies have set up counselling services to help those affected.

Paul Wilkinson, personnel manager at the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Cor-



Henty: photographer who died in the blast

poration, which caught the full force of the blast, said that many of his employees were still haunted by memories of the bomb, the biggest to explode on the mainland. Most of the 42 workers who were manning the bank on the morning of Saturday, April 24, had been terrified by the long wait in the basement after police were warned of the bomb an hour before the blast.

"Waiting down there was a very frightening experience," Mr Wilkinson said. "They suffered minor physical inju-

ries but the memory still haunts them and the smallest thing can be upsetting."

Most of the workers, who included bankers, secretaries and contract workers, are back at work, although some can barely sleep at night. "For some, the moment they close their eyes they see images of the bomb," Mr Wilkinson said. "Of those who have returned to work some are back in a determined bid to come to terms with their experience."

Ray Fayers was a security guard at the bank and narrowly escaped death when he was knocked out in the foyer as the bomb exploded in a tipper truck in the road outside. Mr Fayers, 44, from Leytonstone, northeast London, who spent three days in hospital, had difficulty sleeping for weeks afterwards. He said: "I kept waking up at 2am and arguing with myself. I kept on asking myself if I could have done anything different, whether I should have been with my colleagues. But I knew that there was nothing else I could have done."

Mr Fayers, who is still nursing his injuries, hopes to return to work with Chubb Security in the next three weeks. "I've still got a broken finger and cuts," he said. "I have another two weeks to the long wait in the basement after police were warned of the bomb an hour before the blast."

"Waiting down there was a very frightening experience," Mr Wilkinson said. "They suffered minor physical inju-

ries but the memory still haunts them and the smallest thing can be upsetting."

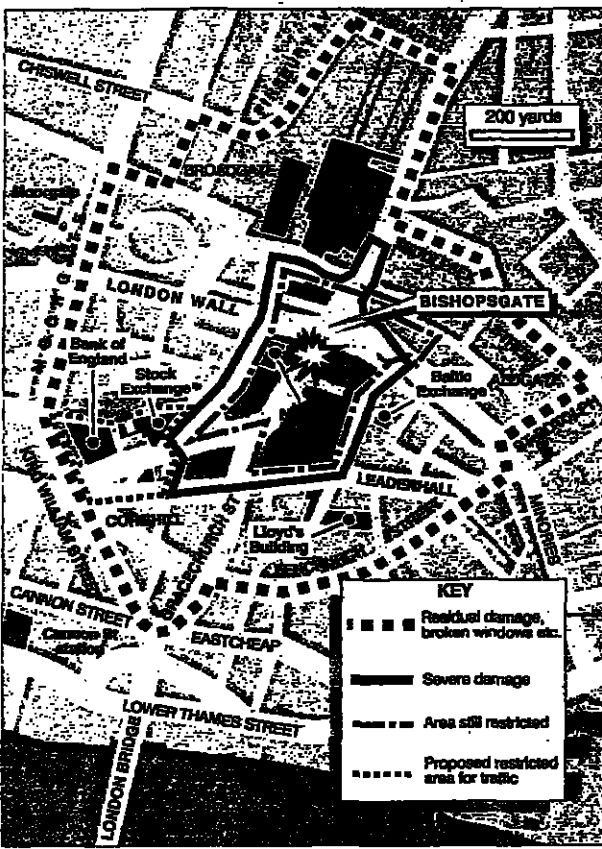
David Wilson, principal of Leighton High School, Boston, Massachusetts, said: "At the moment we quite clearly cannot guarantee the safety of our students in London and we will not be going next year. It would be ludicrous to send students to London when there is a pattern of bombings. It is no different to the systematic terrorising of tourists by fundamentalists in Egypt."

His comments were echoed by Isabel Macintyre, who was leading around the City a party of school children from Kirkcaldy, Fife, as the bomb went off. None of her students was injured, although many were shocked and stunned.

She said: "I don't like to say it, and I know this is what the IRA wants, but I would be most reluctant to take a party to London. We mainly come down to see the Royal Shakespeare Company and we can just as easily go to the theatre in Stratford. A lot of the children suffered delayed shock. We live a sheltered life in Kirkcaldy and our experience gave us a taste of what life must be like in Belfast."



Depth of destruction: aftermath of the April IRA bombing. City police are switching from fraud to terrorism as their main target



Fraud takes a back seat as force focuses on terrorism

By CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

THE bombings in Bishopsgate in April and the Baltic Exchange last year have forced the City of London Police to alter the thrust of their operations from major fraud to anti-terrorism.

Owen Kelly, the force's commissioner, said that it had not neglected its responsibilities for fraud and VIP protection, "but we have changed the direction of the force."

As consultations continue about the possibility of a permanent security cordon around part of the City, Mr Kelly said: "We received the authority for 36 more policemen last year and we are seeking more, and the Home Office has been very encouraging. Bishopsgate has caused us to take officers from everywhere, including the Serious Fraud Office. We have even suspended training."

He would like an extension

of stop-and-search powers, but many positive measures had already been taken. These included forums on security, literature on protecting premises from explosions, encouraging the use of more video cameras with permanent record, changing traffic direction on some streets and a permanent police presence around the Stock Exchange and the Bank of England.

Mr Kelly said that anti-terrorist patrols had been set up to stop and search at random. Armed officers accompanied them but did not carry out the searching. "These patrols work 24 hours a day, seven days a week and that has been a deterrent."

One of the big problems was that some of the named keyholders for premises had been retired for years. A difficulty in alerting people in emergencies was that loud-

hailers did not penetrate double-glazing and ways of giving warnings on computer screens and personal beepers was being examined.

"We are never going to be able to give a guarantee that the terrorists will be stopped, but we can reduce the risk. All this, of course, will be of some inconvenience to the public. We have had a good response from them while the facts are still fresh in the public mind. The problem comes in a couple of months, when people forget. We can never relax our guard."

Mr Owen has been to Belfast to see its system of controlling access to the city centre but did not believe this would be acceptable in the City of London.

A benefit of the extra vigilance was a 16 per cent decrease in overall City crime since the start of the year.

Sick boy seeks court ruling on closure

By IAN MURRAY

LAWYERS acting for Rhys Daniels, a two-year-old boy suffering from a rare killer disease, will ask the High Court today to rule that Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, broke the law by closing the only specialist hospital unit in the world prepared to treat him.

The case is to go ahead despite an attempt less than two weeks ago by the Legal Aid Board to withdraw funding from the boy's family on the grounds that another hospital is now likely to offer treatment. The family was still waiting to receive that offer yesterday. It was only on Monday that the board agreed to continue funding.

Patrick Milmo QC will argue the family's case that the minister broke the law by failing to comply with the legal obligation to consult with interested parties.

Barry Daniels, Rhys's father, of Epping, Essex, said yesterday: "We want a public declaration that this closure was unlawful because we are fighting for all the other kids who need help as well." Mr

Daniels was originally granted legal aid to sue Mrs Bottomley and the North West Thames Regional Health Authority after the closure of the bone marrow transplant unit at Westminster Children's Hospital in April. The unit was the only one in the world with suitable experience in the operation Rhys needs to combat Batten's disease, the genetic disorder that will kill him by the time he is seven if he is not treated by the time he is three.

He was promised treatment there last November but even though suitable donors were available, there was no time to carry out the operation before the unit was closed.

Last month, Rhys was referred to the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children. A hospital spokesman said yesterday that it hoped to start the three-month transplant treatment in July. Rhys will be three at the end of December. The court will hear today that if the Westminster unit had remained open, the treatment would have been completed long before the dangerous deadline was reached.

Fishermen rescued from sea

A fisherman pulled unconscious by a helicopter from the Bristol Channel was critically ill in hospital yesterday. Wayne Cummings, 32, and three friends from Barry, South Glamorgan, spent nearly four hours in the sea after their 15ft boat ran out of petrol and was swamped.

Coastguards said the men, who were extremely cold, were saved by their lifelines when they ran into trouble off Nash Point, near Llantwit Major.

Philip Turner, 40, Nigel Dee, and Vaughan Thomas, were also treated for hypothermia.

Boy's £950,000
Garth Bould, 11-year-old son of the former Olympic gymnast Ann Bould, was awarded £950,000 agreed damages by the High Court in Leeds for brain damage caused during birth. Wakefield Health Authority in West Yorkshire admitted liability.

Life sentence
Lee Davy, a former military police corporal, accepted increased to life an eight-year sentence imposed on Richard Oxford, 40, from Aldershot, Hampshire, for stabbing a woman. Four judges agreed he was an untreatable psychopath and a "serious danger" to women.

Slander case
A former military police corporal, accepted increased to life an eight-year sentence imposed on Richard Oxford, 40, from Aldershot, Hampshire, for stabbing a woman. Four judges agreed he was an untreatable psychopath and a "serious danger" to women.

Riders scalded
ScottRail's summer excursion trips between Perth and Glasgow have been suspended after five people travelling on the locomotive footplate were scalded by leaking steam.

Hearse sale
The black Austin Princess hearse that carried Sir Winston Churchill's coffin to Westminster Hall in 1965 is being sold by an Essex undertaker.

Drugs charge
Two 18-year-old boys from Newcastle Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne, have been charged with having nearly a kilo of cannabis.

TT fans killed
A motorcyclist and his female pillion rider died in a crash on the Isle of Man, bringing the death toll of fans visiting the TT races to nine.

Human rights groups say abuses in UK are ignored

By JAMES LANDALE

THE government was accused yesterday of ignoring widespread human rights abuses against the mentally ill. Civil rights groups said the government suffered from "collective national myopia" in criticising human rights abuse abroad while ignoring a range of abuses at home.

People with mental illnesses are subject to wrongful detention, suffer inhumane conditions, are denied access to the courts and are victims of discrimination, according to a report published by Mind, the mental health charity, and Liberty, the civil rights organisation. The report highlights

a series of specific alleged abuses over the past three years.

Seven managers and nurses were disciplined at a hospital in Staffordshire last December after a woman with learning difficulties died when she was tied to a lavatory seat while staff were at lunch. An enquiry into Ashworth Hospital in Merseyside in August last year found that patients had suffered degrading and brutal treatment.

Yesterday's report was the first by the Rights Convention, a group of 22 civil rights organisations set up to highlight before a UN convention

in 1995 what it claims is the government's poor human rights record. It found that the inadequacy of legal protection afforded to such people meant that human rights were being violated.

Ian Byrnes, legal director of Mind, said: "People detained for psychiatric treatment have basic human rights like any other citizens. Recent scandals in our hospitals and prisons confirm the continuing abuse of those rights."

At the same time, Amnesty International, the human rights group, held a forum for more than 50 independent organisations to give evidence on human rights abuse in the UK. This and other written evidence will be presented to a United Nations conference on human rights in Vienna this weekend. Amnesty will call for the UN to set up a special human rights commissioner with wide-ranging powers to investigate abuses throughout the world.

After the forum, Amnesty presented a petition of 6,000 signatures to parliament demanding that the government ratify UN human rights treaties into British law.

Louise Christian of Liberty said that civil liberties in this country were seen as nothing more than a legal technicality. "All too often we look about and criticise other countries, but we do not look at ourselves in the same way," she said. "What has been an erosion of our liberties has now become a full scale attack."



Speaking out: Amnesty's UK director, David Bull

Experts confirm babies who sleep on fronts risk cot death

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

BABIES put to sleep on their fronts are up to eight times more likely to die in their cots than those who sleep on their backs, a government committee of experts has concluded. Those whose parents smoke are up to three times more likely to die and babies who are kept too hot by excessive clothing or bedding are also at increased risk.

The findings were published by the health department yesterday as new figures showed that the number of cot deaths more than halved last year following a government campaign to persuade parents to put their babies to sleep on their backs.

Deaths fell from 912 in 1991 to 456 last year follow-

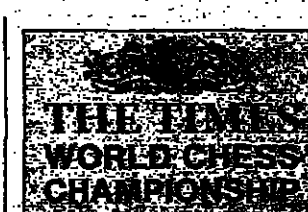
ing the £2 million "Back to Sleep" television campaign supported by Anne Diamond, the TV presenter whose son Sebastian was a victim of cot death two years ago. It followed an earlier campaign by the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths.

Miss Diamond, who gave birth to her third son, Jacob, last month, said the figures were "everything that I could have hoped for. I wish this country had been aware of the danger areas when Sebastian was born. It might have meant he would still be alive today."

The expert group, set up by Dr Kenneth Calman, the chief medical officer, says the causes of cot death remain

unclear and removal of the risks will reduce, but not eliminate it. More than 20 studies from around the world have shown that in every case babies were at greater risk if put to sleep on their fronts. There was no evidence that putting babies to sleep on their backs increased the risk of choking. Eight studies have shown that babies exposed to tobacco smoke either during pregnancy or after birth were at greater risk.

The foundation said cot death remained the largest cause of death in babies over one week old. Recent research suggests other factors may be developmental abnormalities, disruptions of breathing and infection.



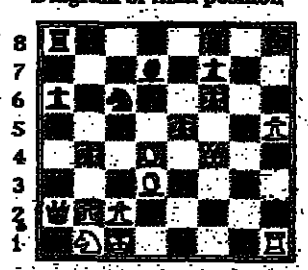
By RAYMOND KEENE, CHIEF CORRESPONDENT

TODAY'S game shows Luke McShane, Britain's nine-year-old chess genius, in action. Currently his strength, outstrips that of both Nigel Short and Michael Adams at the same age. This game shows his tremendous tactical and attacking flair.

White: Luke McShane (Middlesex)
Black: Kieran Smallbone (Hampshire)
U-15 counties semi-final 1993

Sicilian Defence	
1 e4	c5
2 Nf3	e6
3 d4	exd4
4 Nxd4	c7
5 Nc3	Nf6
6 Bg5	Be7
7 Qd2	0-0
8 g4	d6
10 f4	Ne8
11 h5	Nd7
12 g5	Nd6
13 Be2	h5
14 0-0-0	Bd7
15 h4	Nd4
16 Qd4	Nc6
17 Qd2	Qa5
18 g6	h4
19 Qd7	Kc7
20 Nc1	Qa2
21 Bc3	h3
22 Ng1	Bf5
23 e5	Qa5
24 f6	Qd4
25 f7	Qd6
26 Bg4	e5
27 Qd4	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



a b c d e f g h

Rooks' challenge
The Raging Rooks have become the sensation of New York chess. A team of disadvantaged youngsters from Harlem, many of whom could not even read, they now sweep the board regularly in junior US chess trophies.

They will be coming to London during The Times Chess Festival and the chess world of the UK is looking forward to seeing them in action. Any club or group who would like to challenge them should write to me c/o Championship Chess, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

Board of education

The State of New Jersey has placed chess on the school curriculum. Here is the text of the act "RE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. The Legislature finds and declares that: a chess increases strategic thinking skills, stimulates intellectual creativity, and improves problem-solving ability while raising self-esteem; b. when youngsters play chess they must call upon higher-order thinking skills, analyse actions and consequences, and visualise future possibilities; c. in countries where chess is offered widely in schools, students exhibit excellence in the ability to recognise complex patterns and consequently excel in math and science; and d. instruction in chess during the second grade will enable pupils to learn skills which will serve them well throughout their lives.

2. Each board of education may offer instruction in chess during the second grade for pupils in gifted and talented and special education programs. The Department of Education may establish guidelines to be used by boards of education which offer chess instruction in those programs.

3. This act shall take effect immediately. Instruction in chess meets a need for the development of higher-order thinking skills which will transfer to other academic areas. Chess involves all aspects of critical thinking, requires intense concentration and visualisation, stimulates intellectual creativity, improves problem-solving skills and makes learning fun."

House moves
The annual Lords vs Commons match sponsored by The Spectator and The Brain Trust takes place this afternoon. The probable mental warriors include, for the Commons: Michael Stern (C), Jeremy Hanley (C), Andrew Bowden (C), Tam Dalyell (Lab), Philip Oppenheim (C), Angela Eagle (Lab) and Emma Nicholson (C). For the Lords: Kilbracken, Lord Kilbracken, Lord Oram and the Marquess of Bath.

Championship update
For debaters in The Times Chess Festival, the Championship match between Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short runs 0-1 240 3941. Monday to Friday 9am-5.30pm. For prestigious corporate hospitality packages at the Savoy and Simpson's call Cavendish Hospitality on 081 567 3530.

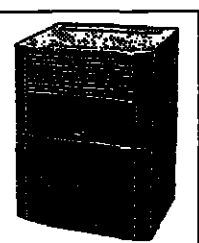
Winning Move, Page 44

THIS COULD BE THE LAST HOT LINE YOU DIAL

Another hot, humid day in the office?

A Tefal Climline portable air conditioner could make your office a more pleasant and productive environment

right now. With Tefal Air Conditioners, it takes just minutes to plug in and switch on to year-round comfort.



RING THE TEFAL CLIMLINE HOTLINE NOW.

AND TAKE THE HEAT OUT OF THE SITUATION.

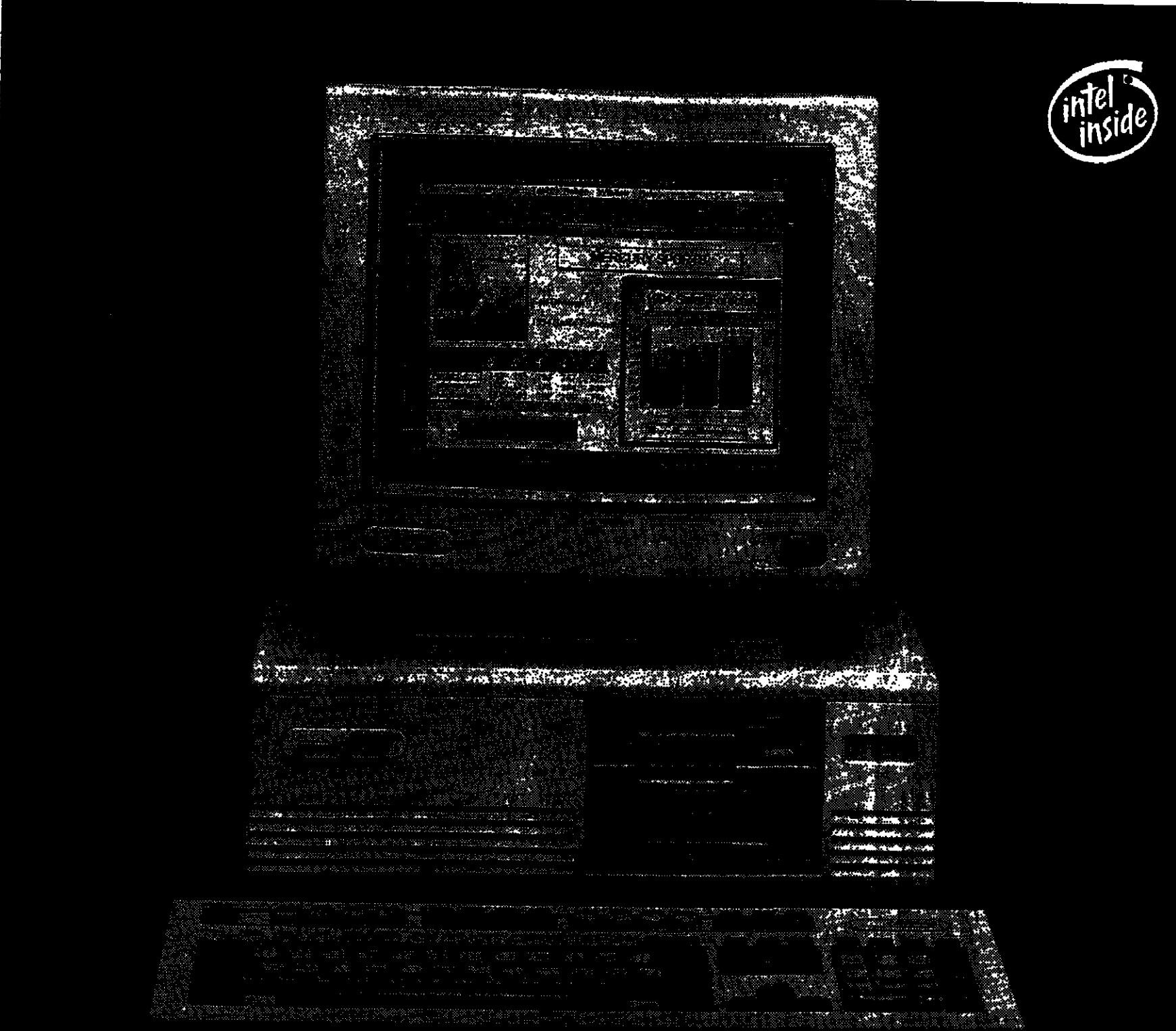
0753 676926

TEFAL

PORTABLE AIR CONDITIONERS

back seat as
n terrorism

MLN
MESS
SHIP
education



COMPAQ DESKPRO 486s 25M

BUY NOW.



DON'T PAY LATER.

Now when you buy a COMPAQ DESKPRO PC, we'll give you up to £450 worth of Lotus software. But hurry, this offer lasts only a few weeks.

Conversely, COMPAQ DESKPRO PCs last considerably longer. In fact, we're so sure of their quality, we back every computer with a 3 Year Warranty plus 12 months on-site service - free*.

While we've built our computers to last, we've also designed them to grow. With the DESKPRO/i PC you upgrade simply by adding or replacing a microprocessor chip. You also have three expansion slots and mass storage device positions for your choice of diskette, fixed drive, CD-ROM and tape drives.

Better still, the DESKPRO/M gives you the ultimate in expansion capability, allowing you to upgrade graphics, processor board, memory and storage as ever more sophisticated technology becomes available.

The most sophisticated technology now available actually comes as standard with your COMPAQ DESKPRO. For example, QVision Graphics* gives you remarkable acceleration features plus incredible clarity from a palette of over 16 million colours and a resolution of 1024 x 768.

Each computer also comes with Compaq Business Audio* which records and replays voice messages that you can add to text and even reads back your spreadsheets to help you check for errors.

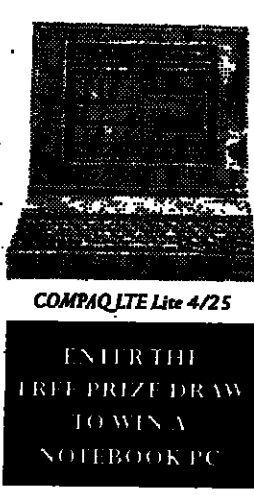
Add to this pre-installed MS-DOS* and Windows* 3.1* plus such options as network cards, CD-ROMs, cache memory, tape drives and disk drives, and you have a computer that will be up and running long after our 3 Year Warranty has run its course.

RECENT PRICE REDUCTIONS.

We also give you one other option. Now with a starting price of £1,255 (excl. 17.5% VAT), you can choose the performance you need at the price you want to pay.

Moreover, if you buy your COMPAQ DESKPRO PC before September 15th 1993, you've got a chance of winning a COMPAQ LTE Lite notebook PC. We're giving one away each month in a free prize draw.

So why wait until later? Buy a Compaq DESKPRO PC from your Compaq Authorised Reseller or Dealer now. You'll then get up to £450 worth of Lotus software you don't have to pay for.



GET £450 WORTH OF SOFTWARE OFFER CLOSES SEPTEMBER 15TH

First find out where your nearest Compaq Reseller is by calling 0800 444044. Buy a COMPAQ DESKPRO/i or DESKPRO/M between June 1st and September 15th 1993, send us this voucher and you'll receive a free copy of Lotus Organiser for Windows plus one other software application from a choice of three.

☐ Please tick this box if you would like Lotus Organiser for Windows.

- (Please tick one of the following)
- ☐ Lotus Improv for Windows - the first dynamic spreadsheet for Windows.
 - ☐ Lotus 1-2-3 Release 4.0 for Windows - the new version of the world's most popular spreadsheet.
 - ☐ Lotus Freelance Graphics for Windows - the package for dramatic, powerful presentations.

Please return this voucher with proof of purchase (original receipt/invoice) to Compaq Computer Ltd., FREEPOST, CL3 499, Colchester, CO4 4YY.

I have purchased _____ (name of product)
_____ (model number) _____ (serial number).

If multiple purchase, please attach details on separate sheet.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms): _____
Title: _____
Company: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Telephone: _____

How many people does your company employ? _____

(Please tick one of the following)

- ☐ Please enter me in the free prize draw to win a COMPAQ LTE Lite notebook PC.
- ☐ I have not purchased a COMPAQ DESKPRO PC but would still like to be entered for the free prize draw.

We'd like to advise you of future products and offers. If you do not wish to receive these, please tick here. ☐

COMPAQ
SHOWS THE WAY

*1st year on-site warranty free to registered users. Compaq monitors have a one year return to base warranty. QVision and Business Audio are standard on all DESKPRO models except DESKPRO 486s/25M model 1 and DESKPRO 486/33M model 1 for which they are available as an option. MS-DOS and Windows are available on diskette models. Product names mentioned here may be trademarks and/or registered trademarks of other companies. © 1993 Compaq Computer Corporation. All rights reserved. The Intel Inside Logo is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Price quoted for COMPAQ DESKPRO 4/25 Model 1 with COMPAQ VGA colour monitor, correct at time of going to press and excludes VAT at 17.5%. Lotus software quoted at recommended retail price and will be sent in plain white packaging. Offer valid until 15th September 1993. 1. Details of the offer and how to apply are in this advertisement. 2. The offer applies to all purchases of COMPAQ DESKPRO/i or DESKPRO/M (excluding desktop power units) between 1.6.93 and 15.9.93 from a Compaq Authorised Reseller or Dealer. Completed vouchers must be received on or before 15.9.93. 3. Lotus 1-2-3 Release 4.0 for Windows will be supplied within 14 days of the Lotus official release date. All other packages will be dispatched for delivery within 14 days of receipt of the completed redemption voucher. It will be the purchaser's responsibility to install the software. 4. Software is provided subject to Lotus standard license terms. 5. No cash prizes are available. 6. Full prize draw details are available upon request. 7. Entry of prize draw is not dependent on purchase. 8. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer or promotional deals from Compaq Computer Limited.

French guilt revived as shots fell Vichy police chief

FROM CHARLES BRENNER
IN PARIS

FRANCE was forced again to examine the ghosts of a guilty past yesterday when a gunman shot dead René Bousquet, 84, the French wartime police chief, at his Paris flat only weeks before he was due to be sent for trial for ordering the deportation of Jews.

Police last night were questioning Christian Didier, a writer with a history of psychiatric troubles, who called a televised news conference to confess the murder. M. Didier, 49, who served four months in prison in 1987 for threatening Klaus Barbie, the late Gestapo boss and "butcher of Lyons", produced a pistol and said he acted "for the forces of good". Police confirmed that tests showed his gun was the weapon which killed Bousquet.

The gunman fired four shots at Bousquet when he came to the door of his sixth-floor flat on the Avenue Raphaël in the elegant 16th district in western Paris just before 9am. Bousquet's house-



Cosy collaboration: René Bousquet, second from right, with his Nazi masters in 1943

keeper let the man into the building because he said he was bringing a letter from the prosecutors. "I didn't care about killing that piece of garbage, but I was worried that if his absolution jumped me, I would have had to shoot the dog," Didier said on television. "The dog ran off when it heard the first shot." Didier

said he fired at point-blank range but Bousquet kept running towards him. "The guy had incredible energy. I fired a second time and he kept coming at me. I fired a third time and he started to stagger. The fourth time I got him in the head or the neck and he fell with blood spilling out of him." As neighbours shouted "Stop! Mur-

derer!", his valet chased the gunman to a underground station but lost him.

Bousquet's building was the site of demonstrations last July on the 50th anniversary of the Velodrome d'Hiver raids. In that operation, planned by Bousquet and carried out by French police under his command, 13,000 Jew-

ish men women and children were rounded-up and deported to their deaths.

As television broadcast wartime newsreels yesterday of the young Bousquet chatting with Karl Oberg, the Paris SS chief and a friend, politicians and Jewish groups voiced outrage. The murder, they said, deprived France of a chance to straighten the historical record over the genocidal crimes committed by senior officials of the Vichy regime and the scandal of half a century of evasion and delaying action by successive governments.

Paul Touvier, a Bordeaux police official, was sent for trial last week on the same charge of crimes against humanity, and another wartime figure, Maurice Papou, is also under indictment. But Bousquet, as the chief executor of the round-ups which sent 100,000 French Jews and other detainees to their deaths, was the key symbol of official collaboration. "He represented the entire anti-Jewish policy of Vichy," Serge Klarsfeld, the Nazi-hunter, said.

"I am shattered. We wanted a great historic trial, not a settlement of accounts," he said.

Thanks to books, films and the opening of archives since the early 1970s, the younger generation accepts as fact that the Vichy government collaborated with the Nazi occupiers, sometimes showing greater zeal than the SS in rounding up Jews and resistance fighters. More than 76,000 Jews, including 11,000 children, were deported to concentration camps by French police. Only 2,500 survived. Two new films, one a drama on the life of Marshal Pétain and the other a digest of wartime newsreels, are now on release. However, the subject is still clouded in evasion, emotion and ambiguity for many of the wartime generation.

President Mitterrand, who was both decorated by the Vichy state and worked as a Resistance agent, made many people uneasy last year when he rejected the notion that France should officially bear any responsibility for the acts of what he insists was an outlaw

regime. Critics pointed out that Pétain's French state should be considered as legitimate because it was legally created by the parliament of the Third Republic.

Archive documents have shown that Bousquet went further than the Germans wanted and decided against their advice to detain all children along with their parents in the Velodrome d'Hiver. He was finally charged in 1989 after M. Klarsfeld filed suit against him for crimes against humanity, the only offence which is not subject to a statute of limitations. The Paris prosecuting court last week finished its study of the case and was expected to send him for trial in two weeks.

It is assumed in Paris that the long delays in the war-crimes cases are the result of reluctance at the highest level to open old wounds by effectively putting the wartime state on trial. *Le Monde* said two years ago that M. Mitterrand was directly responsible for blocking proceedings.

Obituary, page 17

Envoy urges Turks not to avenge racist arson

Neo-Nazis are apparently able to wield the weapon of fire at will. Helmut Kohl is still only ready to make small concessions on nationality rights to Germany's foreigners

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

NEO-NAZI sympathisers are nightly setting fire to the homes of Turks and other foreigners in Germany. Another three houses were put to the torch in the early hours of yesterday and there have been at least nine arson attacks since two Turkish women and three children were burnt to death in Solingen 11 days ago.

The Bonn government is floundering over the issue, continuing to dismiss the attacks as isolated incidents without any serious political intent. Ministers are arguing that the blazes are copycat assaults to attract media attention. The logical response is therefore to play down the lengthening trail of fire.

That, however, does not satisfy the Turkish government. Onur Oyman, the Turkish ambassador in Bonn, yesterday summed up the general helplessness by urging Turks to protect their lives by buying fire extinguishers and improving security on doors and windows, but not to resort to violence or seek revenge.

The fire-bombings suggest that the skinheads generally behind the attacks have been given at least some instructions on setting a house ablaze. A day before an arson attack on a house at Hüttingen in the Ruhr, two young people, not skinheads, photographed it, indicating the attacks are not spontaneous and may fit into a wider far-right strategy aimed to coincide with the tightening of asylum laws.

One of those accused over the Solingen deaths has been identified as an active member of a far-right party, the German People's Union. So far, though, no action has been taken against the party, although police are understood to be preparing raids to confiscate literature and question party members.

Although one of yesterday's attacks was in Frankfurt, the arsonists have concentrated on the industrial Ruhr, and the counter-espionage service has begun investigating whether an underground neo-Nazi

network has been set up there. The arson attacks have accelerated the debate about granting Turks dual citizenship, if only because some concessions to the Turkish community are so politically desirable. The German chamber of commerce issued a warning yesterday that the repeated assaults were giving the impression of instability and unsettling potential investors.

Cornelia Schmalz-Jacobson, the politician in charge of matters concerning foreigners, urged the granting of dual citizenship for long-term German residents. "The true homeland for the children and youths of the second and third generations [of immigrants] is Germany," she told a Cologne newspaper. But German citizenship alone would not solve the problem: "The 16-year-old arsonist does not ask to see his victim's passport."

Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, is more reluctant to open the gates, but he does seem willing to speed up naturalisation procedures for a limited number of Turks. He will spell out part of his plan to parliament next Wednesday.

The chancellor has been hurt by criticism that he refused to attend the weekend funeral of the five murdered Solingen Turks. He said on Monday that his presence could have provoked a riot and detracted from the occasion. This explanation has not satisfied the Social Democrats in opposition or, indeed, many German newspapers, which have turned on Herr Kohl with some ferocity.

Badapest: Vandals have desecrated a Jewish cemetery and two other graveyards at Eger, an eastern Hungarian town regarded as the capital of the country's skinheads, police there said yesterday. Nazi slogans were sprayed on 18 tombstones in the Jewish cemetery. Satanist signs were painted on ten graves in a Roman Catholic cemetery. In the third graveyard, a burial urn was smashed and its contents scattered. (Reuters)



Hidden force: Abkhazian commandos preparing for a raid on Georgian positions in the breakaway region. At least three people have been killed in fighting in Abkhazia

since a ceasefire between Georgia and the secessionists collapsed at the weekend when Abkhazians shelled Sukhumi, the regional capital, held by Georgian troops. The rebels said one child was killed in the besieged town of Tkvarcheli, about 50 miles to the east, which has a large Russian-speaking population. A helicopter carrying hu-

manitarian aid to the town was fired at on Sunday, and Russia is now threatening to stop its flights to both towns. Moscow has appealed for a new ceasefire. Hun-

dreds of people have been killed in Abkhazia since last August when the government moved troops into the Black Sea region to oppose the breakaway movement.

Ciampi sounds out former Communists for support

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

CARLO Azeglio Ciampi, the Italian prime minister, yesterday met former Communist leaders to seek broader support for his government and overcome uncertainty after the extraordinary vote for change expressed in local elections this week.

Signor Ciampi, the respected former governor of the Bank of Italy, has responded in typically unfrustrated fashion to the confusion posed by the victory in the polls of the Lombardy League and the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), the former Communists, aides say. He reiterated his pledge that electoral reform is "the first priority" of the cabinet. "He is serene," said an adviser at his Palazzo Chigi office. "He sees it as business as usual."

Signor Ciampi held talks with a delegation led by Achille Occhetto, the former Communist leader. Three former Communists were part of the cabinet formed by Signor

Ciampi in April but they resigned in protest when parliament declined to waive the immunity from prosecution of Bettino Craxi, the former Socialist leader, to face trial on corruption charges.

The local elections were a triumph for Signor Occhetto, who can now claim, with



Ciampi: keeping calm amid the confusion

some credibility, that his party is the last bulwark against a league victory in a general election, which would raise the spectre of Italy's disintegration. The Christian Democrats, formerly the largest party, saw their vote halved as electors deserted the corruption-tainted grouping for the league, the anti-Mafia party, La Rete (Network), and others. The Socialists were virtually wiped out, scoring 2 to 3 per cent in Milan.

A referendum on April 18 authorised parliament to reform the proportional representation electoral rules in favour of a winner-takes-all system. But parliamentarians are divided over whether to introduce a British-style system or a two-round model on French lines.

The PDS favours a two-round system that would give it leeway to make alliances with other groups, but Umberto Bossi, the league leader, favours a single round.

Aides say Yeltsin will share power

FROM ANATOLY VERBIN IN MOSCOW

SOME of President Yeltsin's allies suggested yesterday that, as a compromise to end Russia's political crisis, he might settle for a temporary deal defining his powers and those of parliament.

Sergei, a liberal deputy close to Mr Yeltsin, welcomed a centrist proposal to postpone the adoption of a full-fledged constitution and instead hammer out a temporary "law on power". He told reporters on the third working day of the constitutional assembly called by Mr Yeltsin: "I think it is a realistic way out. It is a definite compromise."

The president's top priority is not the constitution but ending the crisis of power, which is becoming clearer and clearer and is fraught with the danger of civil war.

Mr Yeltsin has summoned 700 delegates from Russia's power elite, deputies, regional chiefs, government ministers, businessmen, trade unionists and church leaders, to draw

up a new draft constitution to pull Russia out of political crisis. His team has drawn up an alternative draft, scrapping the supreme legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies, and eliminating the post of vice-president currently held by Alexander Rutskoi, Mr Yeltsin's estranged deputy.

However, stormy opening scenes on Saturday, when Russian Khasbulatov, the parliament's conservative Speaker, stalked out of the assembly, showed the huge task Mr Yeltsin faces in pushing through his draft. Delegates have submitted at least 1,500 amendments.

Mr Yeltsin met the heads of Russia's ethnic republics to clear the air after Saturday's chaotic scenes. Two of them later went to parliament to meet Mr Khasbulatov and try to find a compromise. One of them told reporters: "We should be open for all alternative drafts and [Yeltsin] agrees with that." (Reuters)

Gulag men may face execution

Sofia: Bulgaria's chief prosecutor yesterday demanded death sentences for four labour camp guards accused of killing 14 people in Bulgaria's version of the Soviet "gulag" labour camps.

At the Lovetch camp, north of Sofia, 147 prisoners out of 1,501 who went in between 1959 and 1962 did not come out alive. Defence lawyers objected to the trial on the grounds that Bulgaria's 20-year statute of limitations had expired. (Reuters)

Ukraine strike

Kiev: Thousands of mine-workers in eastern Ukraine took to the streets in protest against threatened price rises which would dramatically reduce their standard of living. Almost half the 204 pits in the region were closed.

Sand storm

Rotterdam: A Greenpeace ship docked with a cargo of "radioactive sand" from Sellafield which the environmentalists said would be dumped at the ministry responsible for contracts between the Dutch and the Cumbrian plant. (Reuters)

Exercise begins

Stockholm: Nato countries and members of the former Warsaw Pact have begun their first joint navy exercises in the North Sea. Swedish officials say that the operation is as much political as military. (Reuters)

MP applauded

Paris: Gaullist parliamentarian Jacques Godfrain won France's annual political humour prize for a jibe against the former Socialist government: "Socialists love the poor so much that they create more of them." (Reuters)

Renegade colonel's revolt threatens wider Caucasus conflict

FROM ANATOLY LIEVEN
IN MOSCOW

IN THE wake of a revolt in Gyandzha, Azerbaijan's second city, at the weekend in which more than 60 people died, opposition demonstrators gathered outside the parliament in Baku yesterday to demand the government's resignation. Meanwhile, the revolt in Gyandzha seemed to be spreading.

A government spokesman in Baku said Colonel Surat Huseynov, the rebel leader who is also an MP, is demanding the convening of parliament and the removal of the government. Turan, the Azerbaijani news agency, said yesterday that the rebels were in full control of Gyandzha and that red flags were flying over government buildings.

Four senior government officials were reported to be held prisoner. Panakh Huseynov, Azerbaijan's prime minister and no relation of the colonel, offered to resign if it would bring peace. In Baku, flags were at half mast after President Elchibey declared a day of mourning for those killed in the revolt.

In a sign of Tehran's deep concern over events in the Caucasus, state-controlled Iranian radio yesterday denounced the rebels. It also criticised the Azerbaijani government for what it called "a lack of seriousness" in dealing with the republic's problems.

The opposition figures expected to dominate any new government are Iltibar Mahomedov, the parliamentary opposition leader, and Haidar Aliyev. Azerbaijani former commu-

nist chief and member of the Soviet politburo. Mr Aliyev is now president of Azerbaijan's autonomous republic of Nakhichevan.

It is widely suspected that these men were behind the Gyandzha revolt, and they have certainly moved swiftly to take advantage of it. The latest developments will also be welcome to the former Soviet elite in Azerbaijan—which was ousted from government, though not from local power and influence, by the Popular Front takeover last year.

The talk in Baku yesterday was that if the government did give in, Mr Mahomedov was likely to become prime minister and Mr Aliyev the chairman of parliament, which might make him de facto head of state. The demonstrators outside parliament were careful to say they

are not demanding the resignation of Mr Elchibey, but he may become a mere figurehead.

A government climbdown appeared likely following a statement by a presidential spokesman, who declared that government troops would not crush the revolt. "We do not want Azerbaijan killing Azerbaijan. We are using other weapons, such as negotiation," he said. The government's forces are unreliable and have become more so as a result of their repeated defeats at the hands of the Armenians, culminating in the loss two months ago of the Kelbajar region.

Colonel Huseynov, a former textile factory manager, raised his own military unit after the Nagorno-Karabakh war began and led it in action. He was dismissed after an

Azerbaijani defeat at the beginning of the year. He refused to accept this or to disband his force.

One version of the start of the Gyandzha revolt is that it began when government troops attempted to disarm Colonel Huseynov's men, who had been gaining increasing power in the city. Another is that a spontaneous clash occurred when the colonel tried to get ahead of the government forces in seizing a base being evacuated by the Russians.

Danger lies not just in the threats of an Azerbaijani civil war but in the possibility that Armenia will take advantage and capture more Azerbaijani territory. Turkey, whose people are ethnically very close to the Azerbaijanis, has said that if that happened, it would not remain aloof.



Owen sees 'careful jigsaw' of Bosnia peace come apart

By GEORGE BROCK
IN LUXEMBOURG
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

LORD OWEN, the European Community's mediator in Bosnia, said yesterday that the United Nations-backed peace process for Bosnia had suffered a "serious unscrambling" in recent weeks and an American plan to contain the conflict had inadvertently encouraged new fighting.

Lord Owen, interviewed from Luxembourg by the BBC, also said he believed it was now unlikely that America would provide any ground troops to help implement the peace plan he helped draw up with Cyrus Vance. In Luxembourg to brief EC foreign ministers on the peace process, Lord Owen was asked whether renewed fighting, particularly between Croats and Muslims, meant that the peace plan's "careful jigsaw was starting to come apart".

"I think that is true," he said. "We have seen particularly over the last couple of weeks... a very serious unscrambling of the process." He told BBC radio: "Sadly the perception of the Washington

Assumptions that America would back the peace plan with 25,000 troops were 'probably foolish', Lord Owen says. Europe must now ask itself if it can fill the gap

summit of the five [nations]... was that we were accepting the Serbian gains.

"That message — that you could sit on the territory that you have acquired by force — encouraged the Croats in Mostar to start taking territory and pushing Muslims out and has produced a counter-reaction of Muslims against Croats."

Lord Owen raised the questions that diplomats suffering Bosnia-fatigue would prefer to avoid. Temporary Muslim enclaves are no strategy, he said. Either the UN sponsors a scheme to balance the interests of Serbs, Muslims and Croats inside Bosnia, or the outside powers should admit that they will leave the map to be drawn by the warlords. A peace plan can only survive, he added, if soldiers are sent to enforce it.

These are the issues that Britain, France, America and

Russia would prefer not to answer. Their governments cling to the official formula that the "safe areas" are only a prelude to a fuller settlement in a remote future. "Owen, as he is quite entitled to, is leaping ahead to the golden day when he has an agreement which sticks. Then you are into big numbers of troops," said one British official.

For America to back away from the Balkans is "debilitating," Lord Owen remarked, but not fatal so long as other states were ready to make up the deficiency. The real test of the UN's determination is the choice about Serbia's conquests: a stable peace in Bosnia can only be founded on rolling back some Serbian seizures of land. Lord Owen would like Europe and the Muslim world to decide whether or not they can face

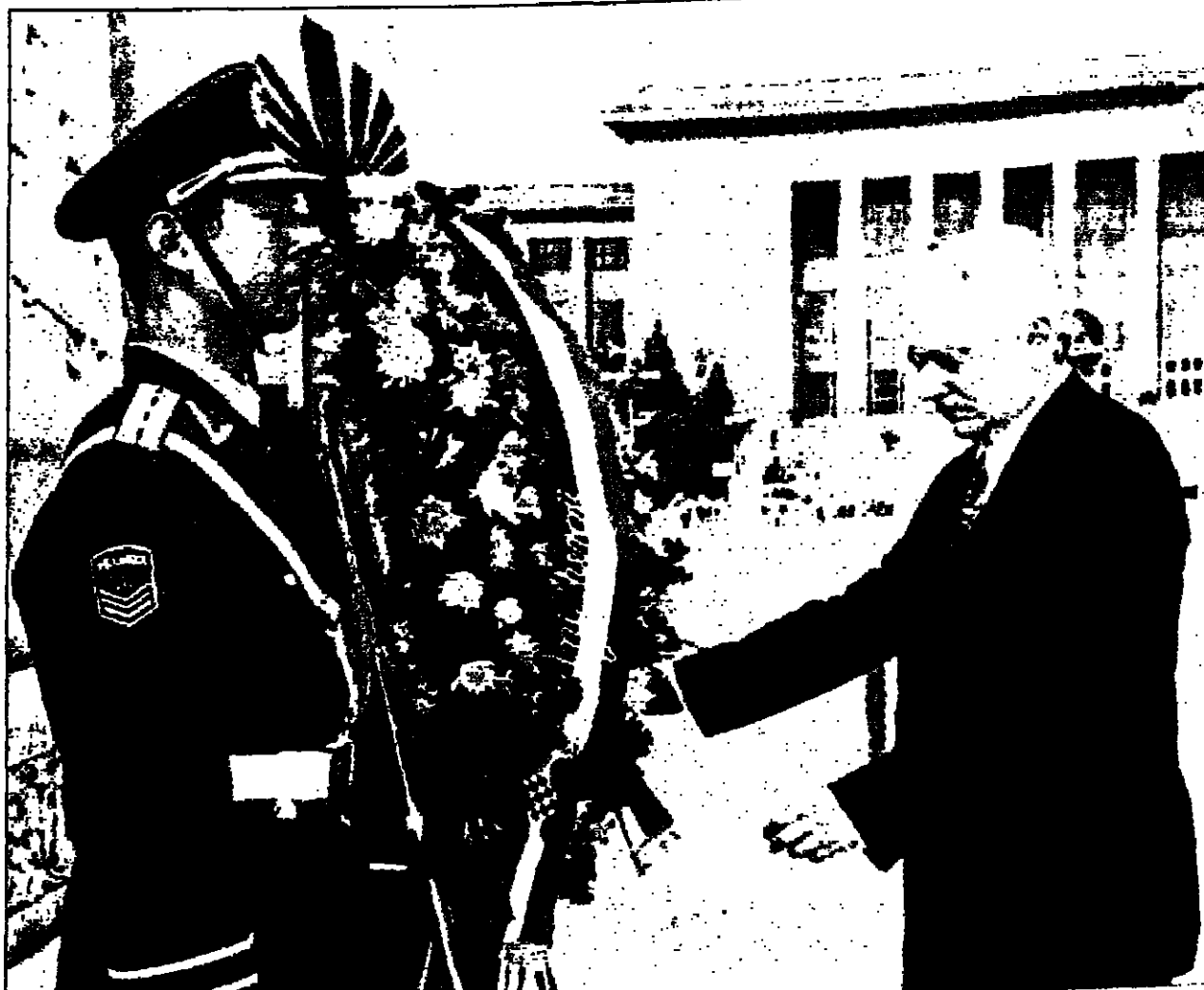
the sacrifice involved in confronting the Serbs.

Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, comes here today to confirm that the Clinton administration backs the "safe areas" but will send no ground forces to help them. Britain and France see no reason to supply more soldiers while others send none at all. Greece, hosting Nato's foreign ministers in Athens tomorrow, will block the use of Turkish troops in Bosnia.

Asked whether he was growing impatient with the new American administration, Lord Owen replied: "It's no use being impatient. The United States has its own democratic processes and I think one must assume that they are not going to put troops on the ground." He said the question for Europe was whether it could fill a gap left now that assumptions that America would sending up to 25,000 troops had turned out to be "probably foolish".

"If we can't fill the gap we should say so, not go on pretending," he said.

Travnik patrol, page 1
Simon Jenkins, page 14



Homage to heroes: President Tudjman of Croatia, on a seven-day visit to China, laying a wreath yesterday at the revolutionaries' monument in Peking. He later called for the world to use force to end the Bosnian war

Fickle policy of West elicits hollow laughter from victims

The damage caused by the threats, promises and constant changes of direction by the allies cannot be overestimated, Michael Evans writes

Policies on "safe areas" for Bosnia and all the other so-called "solutions" to end the bloodshed are doomed because they fail to address the complexity of the conflict that has now been raging for 14 months. This is not just a civil war; it is at least three different, simultaneous wars.

Creating "safe areas" for Muslim-dominated towns might provide a respite from war for one element of this three-sided conflict. However, the experience of the Muslims in Srebrenica, now suffering a hand-to-mouth anarchic existence, tends to undermine the whole theory of safe areas. There is no reason to suppose that the presence of another 5,000 United Nations troops in the country, and 50 or 60 additional fighter aircraft, will have any effect on the fighting elsewhere in Bosnia.

There are three main elements of the war, each of which requires a different political and/or military solution.

On the one hand, the Bosnian Serbs want to neutralise or overwhelm the principal Muslim enclaves. Then there is the Bosnian Serb plan to create a six-mile wide corridor across northern Bosnia to link Serbia with the Serb enclave at Krajina in Croatia. There is a secondary plan to drive another corridor down from Banja Luka in the northwest, through Maglaj, Sarajevo and Pale to the Serbian border.

In addition, there is the racial antagonism between Croats and Muslims in central and southern Bosnia, which has been inflamed by the Vance-Owen plan because the map delineating ten semi-autonomous provinces hands control of key areas and towns to the Croats in spite of a significant Muslim presence.

Any political or military solution which ignores one or more of these three elements will fail to take account of grievances that daily affect the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in Bosnia. The Vance-Owen map has long ceased to have any relevance

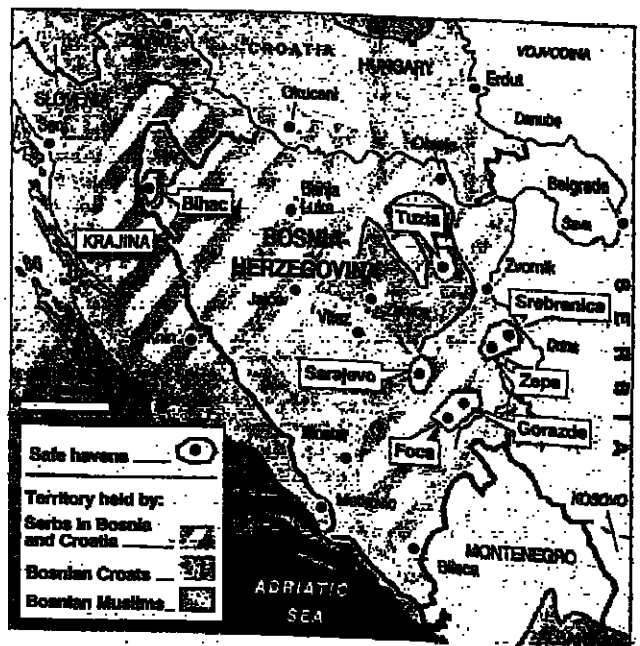
to the future of Bosnia because the three elements of the war have developed so far beyond a peaceful solution that any proposal, new or old, coming from the outside world is regarded by the people as laughable.

It is impossible to overestimate the damage that has been caused by the international community's constant switches in policy. For a time in early May there was a clear impression emanating from Washington and London that air strikes would be launched against Bosnian Serb artillery and mortar positions. The Bosnian Serbs made secret preparations to deploy fuel dumps at locations across Bosnia so that they could move their artillery at a moment's notice. Tank transporters were also made ready to move quickly.

The Serbs had the last laugh. Not only were there no air raids but after three weeks of international dithering, Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, went on television to disclose that the military had warned against air strikes because of the risk that the Serbs would move their artillery next to mosques, hospitals or schools, a piece of advice which had been available for a long time.

All three ethnic groups in Bosnia, whether engaged in aggression or in defending their homes, have learnt in 14 months that the word of the international community is worth little. Rumours in Bosnia are part of daily life but rumours of imminent outside military intervention stopped a long time ago.

The scratching around for extra troops to protect the towns designated as UN safe areas and the disagreement over whether their inhabitants or only the UN soldiers should be protected by air cover have convinced the people of Bosnia that the latest proposal is merely a figleaf operation to save the conscience of Western governments.



You choose the stationery and the OKI 500 chooses the setting.

The OKI 500 is unique among printers in that it automatically readjusts itself. Because it has intelligent sensors on the printhead that enable it to move effortlessly between different types and thicknesses of paper. From multipart forms and single sheets to envelopes and labels. So the major aggravation and time-wasting exercise of constantly refedding and resetting the printer is no longer necessary. Guaranteeing to improve your office efficiency. You'll also find that because the printhead is always at the optimum position the quality of the printing is superior. This conveniently saves on wear and tear and repair bills, too. The hassle of manual resetting is no longer necessary thanks to a very sophisticated printer. But of course, being an OKI it's still very simple to use.

OKI

People to People Technology

For a demonstration or more information call 0800 525585 or send us your details:

Name _____ Address _____

Please send to Ron Heaton, 550 Dundee Road, Slough Trading Estate, Slough, Berkshire SL1 4LE or fax direct to 0753 819898

صكرا من الاميل

Clinton nears tax accord with Senate Democrats



FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton, desperate to avoid further damaging controversies, yesterday edged towards both a compromise with Senate Democrats on his economic plan and his first Supreme Court nomination.

With a new Gallup poll putting Mr Clinton's approval rating at 37 per cent, the president offered important concessions to win Senate support for his \$500 billion (£330 billion) five-year plan to reduce the deficit and revive the economy. The plan squeezed through the House of Representatives last month after last-minute arm-twisting, and faces an even tougher battle in the Senate, but its passage this month would give the president a badly needed fillip.

Responding to the message of Saturday's Texas Senate by-election, which the Republicans won by a landslide on an anti-tax platform, Mr Clinton told Senate leaders that he would accept additional spending cuts in place of tax increases. He also said he would agree to a scaling back and modification of the controversial \$72 billion energy tax to which Democrats from oil and gas-

THE US Air Force said yesterday it was investigating charges that a two-star general called the president a "gay-loving", "pot-smoking", "draft-dodging" and "womanising" commander-in-chief (Martin Fletcher writes).

The remarks were allegedly made last month by Major General Harold Campbell, 53, a Vietnam veteran, at an awards ceremony for air force maintenance workers at Soesterberg in The Netherlands. He apparently opened his speech by saying "I usually begin with a joke, but there's nothing to joke about", given the present occupant of the Oval Office. Making "contemptuous" remarks about the president is a violation of American military law. The air force has sent a three-star general to The Netherlands to try to establish what General Campbell, who faces a possible court martial, exactly said.

producing states have strongly objected. He also dropped his insistence on an across-the-board energy tax rather than one targeted more specifically. These concessions would produce a bill "that can pass the Senate, pass the Congress", claimed Mr Clinton.

Adopting a new hands-off approach, he instructed Lloyd Bentsen, the treasury secretary, and Leon Panetta, his budget director, to hammer out the details with the Senate, insisting only that his original deficit-reduction targets were still reached and that any tax increases be progressive.

Mr Clinton, seeking a fresh start, met Democrat and Republican sena-

tors to discuss the plan, and appeared to offer an olive branch to Bob Dole, the Senate's Republican minority leader, with whom he has sparred from the outset. However, Mr Dole said the Republicans would not support any new tax increases.

Bruce Babbitt, 54, the interior secretary, meanwhile emerged as the president's preferred choice for the Supreme Court vacancy caused by Byron White's retirement. This time the problem is not that the putative nominee has a controversial record, but that he is too good in his present job. When word of Mr Babbitt's likely elevation leaked out on Monday, environmentalists began lobby-

ing intensely to keep him where he is. He has finally started tackling the many heated conflicts between those who want to conserve the federal government's vast land holdings in the West, and those who want to exploit their rich resources. He was "the right man in the right job at the right time", declared the National Audubon Society, one of America's leading wildlife and environmental groups.

With Mr Clinton's popularity sagging in the South, he must maintain his support in western states that are most affected by interior department policies, and Mr Babbitt's nomination was said yesterday to depend on the president being able to find a successor equally as acceptable.

In all other respects, Mr Babbitt, Arizona's former governor and a 1988 presidential candidate, appears a sound choice. He is a political moderate who sailed through his first Senate confirmation hearing earlier this year. Like Mr Clinton, he supports abortion rights and the death penalty. He studied law at Harvard, and served as Arizona's attorney-general.

Throughout yesterday, Democrats were waiting anxiously to hear

whether they had retained the mayor's office in Los Angeles, being vacated by Tom Bradley, which the party has held for the past 36 years. Richard Riordan, 62, a Republican entrepreneur, and Michael Woo, 41, a Democratic city councillor, ended their campaigns tied in opinion polls, with the outcome likely to depend on whether Mr Woo, hoping to become the first Asian mayor of a big American city, could inspire a big turnout among the poor and minorities.

The two candidates offered contrasting prescriptions for reviving America's second city, which has been devastated by recession and riots. Mr Riordan advocated new public-private partnerships, while Mr Woo sought to portray himself as the heir to Mr Bradley's unique brand of multiculturalism. In a dirty campaign, Mr Woo equated Mr Riordan with the worst sort of 1980s-style predatory capitalism, while Mr Riordan portrayed Mr Woo as an ineffectual liberal whose Hollywood district had seen crime rise and business vanish.

Diary, page 14
Leading article, page 15

NEWS IN BRIEF

Court to rule on Nigerian election

Lagos: A court case in Abuja, the Nigerian capital, could today decide whether the country's first presidential election in a decade goes ahead on Saturday as planned (Elizabeth Obadina writes).

The action, brought against the military government by advocates of continued military rule, threatens to delay the three postponed handover to a civilian president, now set for August 27. The election is between two millionaire Muslim businessmen, Chief Mashood Abiola, 55, of the left-wing Social Democratic party, and Bashir Tofa, 45, of the conservative National Republican Convention.

President Babangida, who seized power in a bloodless palace coup in 1985, has publicly dissociated himself from the Association for a Better Nigeria, which is behind today's legal hearing.

Troops' bodies flown home

Mogadishu: The bodies of 23 UN peacekeepers shot in weekend battles with Somali gunmen were flown home to Pakistan yesterday as the UN hoped plans to hit back at the killers "within days".

The UN plans to mount an overwhelming show of force, sources said. "The UN cannot simply let this go. Too much is at stake," one source said. General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, one of the Somali warlords, is believed to be behind the killings. (Reuters)

Norway defies whaling ban

Oslo: A Norwegian whaling vessel has put to sea to hunt commercially for the first time since 1987 in defiance of a global moratorium by the International Whaling Commission. Norway plans to kill 296 minke whales, 160 of which will be for research. Oslo argues that stocks have recovered sufficiently to sustain a limited hunt. Environmentalists are urging other countries to boycott Norwegian products. (Reuters)

Aboriginals demand land

Melbourne: Leaders of Australia's six states and two territories are deadlocked over how to react to land ownership claims from two Aboriginal tribes. In the first claim, the Ngunawal tribe asked the High Court to award it ownership of an area surrounding Canberra. Lawyers for the Wadi Wadi tribe later claimed land along the New South Wales coast. (Reuters)

Britons injured by bomb dropped on Egyptian tour bus

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN NICOSIA

EGYPT'S tottering tourist industry suffered another body blow yesterday when one person was killed and 14 tourists, including five Britons, were injured in a daylight attack on a tour bus driving out of Cairo to the pyramids at Giza.

The bomb, packed with nails, was dropped from a flyover on the vehicle carrying 49 Britons on a two-day trip from Cyprus. It missed and hit a Mercedes travelling in front. Four of the Britons were only slightly hurt, but the fifth, named as Leonard Phillips, underwent surgery to remove a nail embedded in his chest.

The attack, one of the most serious since the campaign against tourism began last year, was assumed to be the work of Islamic militants fighting to overthrow the moderate government of President Mubarak and replace it with an Iranian-style theocracy.

Security sources said that three of the four most recent bombs in Cairo have contained shrapnel. The bus was driven straight from the scene of the attack to a hospital nearby with its right side ripped by shrapnel and its windscreen smashed. The blast was so strong it broke the windows of five cars driving in the other direction. "There was a blast and all the windows caved in. The coach stopped. The young Egyptian courier sitting in

■ Attacks by Islamic militants have hit tourism revenues. If the government carries out death sentences on 20 convicted extremists the tempo may increase

front of us was badly injured", said John Cook, a Briton who had sailed from Cyprus.

Since the militants' campaign against tourists was launched with an attack against the Temple of Luxor, revenues have dropped significantly and bookings are down by at least 60 per cent. Most tourist hotels are nearly deserted. One five-star hotel in Cairo has reduced its nightly room rate to \$28 in an attempt to win back visitors. Before the campaign, tourism was the country's main foreign currency earner which is why the attacks are of such concern to the increasingly shaky government of President Mubarak.

Tourist industry officials said that yesterday's attack, and the wide television coverage it was expected to receive in Europe and America would cause what one described as a "haemorrhage" to remaining bookings.

The latest attack came as the state security court at Fayoum adjourned the retrial of Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, the spiritual leader of the militants, and of men charged with bombing New York's World Trade Centre. Mr Abd-

el-Rahman and 48 others are charged with attempting to kill two policemen.

The attack was seen by some Western diplomats as likely to raise criticism of the British Embassy in Cairo. Despite the terrorists' campaign and frequent warnings to tourists and foreigners, the embassy has repeatedly tried to play down the dangers faced by British visitors and residents, especially those in Cairo.

The authorities have poured in money and resources, including helicopters and armoured cars, to thwart the attacks. Twenty Muslim militants have been sentenced to death in recent months, most for their part in attacks against tourists. Diplomatic observers fear that the tempo of the campaign may increase further once the hangings begin.

The attack was the first against tourists since April. It was seen by Western residents in Cairo as a deliberate attempt by the militants to disprove reports that their effectiveness had been affected by recent mass detentions. Last year, Sharon Hill, a British nurse, was killed in Upper Egypt.



Happy reunion: Yassir Arafat greeting King Hussein of Jordan with a kiss on his forehead soon after his arrival in Amman on Monday for talks on the Middle East peace process, which are scheduled to resume in Washington next week. The PLO leader told the

monarch that the peace talks would be in trouble unless America showed less bias towards Israel (Our Foreign Staff writes). Mr Arafat asked the king to raise the matter when he meets President Clinton in Washington on June 18. In Jerusalem yesterday, Franz Vranitsky,

the Austrian chancellor, arrived with a pledge to improve relations. Ties were marred during Kurt Waldheim's term as chancellor because of his alleged Nazi past. Vranitsky will also confer with Israeli and Palestinian leaders about the peace process.

Today's royal bride: subversive modern or anti-feminist reactionary?

Japan marries self-sacrifice with nostalgia

BY IAN BURUMA

MODERN Japanese monarchs have liked to copy the style of the British royal family. The late Emperor Hirohito, in particular, admired the casual, golf-playing dash of Edward VIII. He was perhaps a rather odd role model but, his abdication and other problems notwithstanding, British royalty remained until recently the *ne plus ultra* of monarchical grandeur.

But Crown Prince Naruhito and Masako Owada marry today against a background of changed attitudes to the British monarchy. Now, it is viewed by Japanese royalists as a parable of failure, an example of how things can go terribly wrong. Look, for example, at the difference between the Princess of Wales and Miss Owada, a commoner, whose wedding to Prince Naruhito today will make her crown princess.

The Princess of Wales, one is told (and not only by



Light-hearted: Masako Owada, left, and her sister Meiko, with a paper lantern given by well-wishers

Japanese conservatives), is the perfect example of modern selfishness. By refusing to play the game, by insisting on her freedom, she has jeopardised an ancient institution. How noble, in contrast, seems Miss Owada: after refusing for seven years to give up a promising diplomatic career for the gilded prison of the

Japanese imperial court, she was prevailed on to put aside "selfish" concerns and marry a man for whom she has not expressed any affection. That it was an act of self-sacrifice is clear from her language. While once she said that she would never give up her freedom, she now promises to make herself "useful to the

imperial household". Self-sacrifice, for the country, for a feudal lord, for a business corporation, for a husband, is the greatest traditional virtue in a Confucian society, or indeed in any society where the strong can impose virtues on the weak. It is a virtue which fills some Western reactionaries with nostalgia.

Such nostalgics like to project the shortcomings of their own societies (the selfish, materialistic West) on to other, faraway places (the disciplined, spiritual East). But Miss Owada's virtue is oddly out of step with trends in Japan too.

Her arranged marriage comes when, for the first time in Japanese history, women are doing what the Princess of Wales has done: claiming the right to disentangle themselves from intolerable marriages. More Japanese women than men now ask for divorces. An increasing number of women are more interested in careers and economic

independence than in traditional family life. Some (known derisively as "yellow cabs" — you can always get a ride) would rather travel abroad for casual sex than enter into subservient relationships with Japanese men. One could call this selfish and sad. One could also say that society has not kept pace with its most intelligent and independent women.

Although there was never any hint of the yellow cab about her, Miss Owada was such a woman. This may be partly why Prince Naruhito was attracted to her, rather than to some simpering blue-blood who played by all the old rules. This is what makes the marriage so interesting: either Miss Owada's sacrifice is a reactionary blow against female independence, or she is a subversive modern in the heart of the nation's still-sacred institution.

Ian Buruma is the author of *A Japanese Mirror*.

Hong Kong takes up cause of stateless minorities

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

A SENIOR all-party group from Hong Kong's Legislative Council will today urge Michael Howard, the home secretary, to grant British citizenship to 7,000 non-Chinese citizens of Hong Kong who are likely to be left stateless after the Peking takeover in 1997.

Britain has consistently refused to consider giving UK passports to this small group of ethnic minorities — mostly Indians and Pakistanis — who have lost contact with their countries of origin and who will not automatically receive Chinese citizenship. Peking recently told a delegation from the

ethnic minorities that it was up to them to settle their cases with Britain.

The Hong Kong legislators, who have the support of Chris Fenech, the governor, in calling for full British passports for the minorities, will also urge Mr Howard to delay implementation of a secret timetable for the issuing of British National (Overseas) passports. These BN(O) documents, promised by Britain to Hong Kong residents after 1997 and renewable every ten years, will not give them the right of residence in Britain.

The Legislative Council is furious at discovering, by chance, that Britain is about to propose parliamentary legislation for an unpublished phased issue

of the passports, unobtainable after June 1997. This timetable will oblige some Hong Kong residents to decide within a few months whether to swap their present passports as Hong Kong British Dependent Territories citizens for the new documents. The Chinese have accepted these, but Hong Kong legislators fear they will not be recognised by many other countries, and especially not by airlines. If Hong Kong residents do not take up their BN(O) passports in the period specified but not yet known, they will not be able to apply later.

The legislators, who include Emily Lau, Ron Arulraj, Simon Ip and James To, yesterday spoke of bitterness in the

colony at Britain's continuous whittling away at residents' rights. Britain has refused to contemplate Hong Kong residents holding two passports until 1997.

In talks with Jack Cunningham, the shadow foreign secretary, the legislators were told that British immigrants from the Indian subcontinent would object if Hong Kong minorities were allowed to jump the queue. He said, however, that the shadow cabinet would discuss the issue.

China has washed its hands of the issue, but is keen to see an outcome that would persuade the 7,000 to stay in Hong Kong, because of their enormous economic influence.

Stay cool with air conditioning.

Call now for your free guide to installation and running costs for business premises.

Phone: 081-812 0800 • Fax: 071-344 5800

COOLELECTRIC

Why are the British such drips when the sun shines? Is it the drink, the drink laws or simply our national character?

Oh, for a place in the sun

It was Dr Johnson, more than two centuries ago, who remarked on the already long-established fact that when two Englishmen meet, their first talk is of the weather. Is it a weakness in the national gene pool or just a product of our apparently indecisive climate that we still seem to be constantly surprised by it?

It is not just the occasional miracle of snow in winter that seems to British Rail as incredible as the parting of the Red Sea did to Pharaoh's legions.

Other great cities are better at coping with good weather

It is not just the occasional miracle of snow in winter that seems to British Rail as incredible as the parting of the Red Sea did to Pharaoh's legions. Sunshine in summer seems to us no less extraordinary. The average Briton is famously well-equipped for when the weather turns bad — no other nationality so readily packs broomies and raincoats for a picnic, or windbreaks for the beach — but is almost totally inept at coping with a spot of sun. It is bad enough that there is no universally acceptable summer equivalent of the City pinstripe, with the result that office workers emerge at lunchtimes to shed dark navy layers and expose pallid paunches on grass verges and traffic islands. But the tragedy is that we have hampered ourselves with evil attitudes and outmoded legislation that combine to kill off all but the fantasy of a café society.

That fantasy meets reality in the optimistic but inadequate outpouring of plastic chairs and parasols onto crowded pavements around London's Soho restaurants and a few city centre pubs, so that brave souls choking in diesel fumes from buses and taxis can fondly pretend they have domesticated *la vie Parisienne*. The British rarely see beyond Paris when they think of Europe: in this country "continental" is still shorthand for

"phoney French". But the shorthand will do, as John Keats wrote in a letter to his sister Fanny, listing the joys of life as "fruit, French wine and fine weather and a little music out of doors, played by someone I do not know". The fact is, however, that all the great cities of Europe are better at coping with good weather than those of Britain.

In Madrid, the broad tree-lined avenues of the Castellano and the Paseo del Prado, despite being flanked by dual carriageways of busy traffic, or even the Plaza Mayor where the trams used to turn, are alive throughout the afternoon and evening with summer bars, smart but temporary pre-fabricated structures set up for the season. And we should not make the excuse of Spanish sunshine being more reliable

than ours. Even in Hamburg, summer sees the erection of any number of stands serving cold beer and warm sausages to be consumed at tall tables with a footrail and a shelf at elbow height, called "Stehtische". Even Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, a global pariah in the grip of sanctions, has more feeling of seasonal relaxation and hedonistic enjoyment on its streets this year than London or Birmingham.

With their lordships — and her Ladyship — droning on about the rights and wrongs of the Maastricht treaty inside the dark, leather and wood-lined chambers of Westminster, their colleagues next door would do more good to the government's cause by enacting new legislation to allow us the same civil liberties as other Europeans and end our prohibition on enjoying summer. Inevitably, it all comes down to licensing. Our antiquated

attitudes to the consumption of alcohol in public — essentially a remnant of upper class ideas of keeping the "oils" under control — are the strait-jacket that cripples our tourist trade. The inequities of 11pm closing — an hour when Berliners are just thinking of an enjoying a few post-theatre drinks — need no elaboration. But it is the legal restraints on



Café society: our antiquated attitude to the consumption of alcohol in public cripples the tourist trade.

the use of public open spaces that is at fault. Let us take a concrete example, literally: the vast slab of empty open space (in fact the roof of an underground car park) that adjoins the beautifully preserved Cutty Sark tea clipper in Greenwich, south-east London. After Westminster and the City, Greenwich is the single most-visited bor-

ough in the country. Every year, tens of thousands of foreign and British visitors converge on a district that also includes Sir Francis Chichester's diminutive Gypsy Moth, and nearby the recently-restored Queen's House, the National Maritime Museum, the Royal Observatory, with its much-photographed meridian line, and the most spectacular of the Royal Parks. Yet the facilities are lamentable.

In the park, by the observatory, there is a rather tacky tea-house, adequate only in comparison with the even tawdrier structure in our poshest park, St James's. Incorporated into the Maritime Museum, there is another "catering establishment", selling tubs of ice-cream and fizzy drinks in cans. Around the Cutty Sark, apart from a few passable pubs serving overpriced, uninspired food, the great concrete expanse with its vistas of the Thames and its

Victorian foot-tunnel link to the architectural Disneyland of docklands, is empty. In any other European country this area would command high rents and be busy with waiters scurrying back and forth performing acrobatic miracles with trays of glasses as they weave between tables of civilised citizenry enjoying refreshment in the sun, and happy to pay for it.

There is no reason why this remains a pipedream other than the two great British sins, inertia and muddling through. The latter, supposedly a great national characteristic, too often comes down to an ethos that decrees: do not aim for excellence when second best will do. Meanwhile, we tilt at mythical Eurocrats and tolerate the tyranny of our own bureaucrats. Surely even the sceptics would tolerate a little more *laissez-faire*?

PETER MILLAR

The dilution of British booze

In the distant days of Gin Lane, mercilessly satirised by Hogarth, the distinctive, juniper-flavoured spirit of Britain was strong enough to strip paint. Beer, though less robust, could equally be relied upon to dull the pain of a hard day's slog at the coalface or the mill.

No longer. Today, with the increasing gentrification of our drinking habits, we hardly notice that the excise man is ever so slowly turning our wine into water. In a parody of the miracle at Cana, brewers and distillers are weakening their resolve — and our drinks — to escape increased levels of duty.

Health faddists will welcome the trend. So will residents in the vicinity of a pub frequented by lager louts. Yet there can be no doubt that it is the manufacturers who are making the most obvious gain and the customers who feel the pinch of their nip.

With summer now firmly established, lovers of a gin sling may feel that their favourite tipple is on crutches, barely able to make its way out of the glass. Gordon's, in particular, with its 50 per cent share of the UK and world markets, has been cut from an alcoholic strength of 40 per cent to a mere 37.5 per cent, saving some £6 million in duty each year.

Occasional gin drinkers — the sort who come out in droves at garden parties on hot Sundays in June — may well agree with Gordon's that no harm has been done. True connoisseurs resent the assumption that they cannot tell the difference. They also point to the fact that for the key American market a strength of 47.5 per cent is necessary.

The dramatic surge in Britain's appetite for vodka and Bacardi turns out to be one reason for the alcoholic decline of gin. Gordon's, and most other brands, felt that if they were to compete with the interlopers they would have to do so on level terms. Those who insist on full-strength gin are advised to stick to Beefeater — still at 40 per cent.

With Fimms, the Deilish effect has been even more pronounced. Once, this quintessential summer drink, served with fresh mint from jugs, was a macho 40 per cent. Later, its strength fell to 38.4 per cent. Then, in 1988, without so much as a by-your-leave, it fell to just 24 per cent. Once again, the price did not alter. Like Gordon's, sales by volume were unaffected. The lesson, that the average British palate is as refined as diesel fuel, is one that manufacturers have no doubt taken to heart.

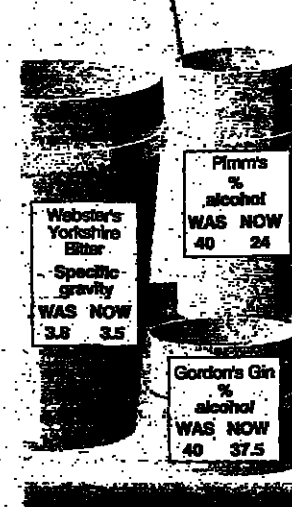
It might be thought that the working man was another matter, and that to play fast and loose with British ale was to court revolution. Not so.

Bass, Courage and Carlsberg-Tedley have each announced their intention to weaken their products. Lager louts in future will have to get even more down their necks before they feel that frisson of manic patriotism and aggression. Hofmeister is to go down from a specific gravity of 3.5 per cent to 3.4 per cent. Holsten will see its fighting weight fall from 6 per cent to 5.5 per cent. Webster's Yorkshire bitter is to go from 3.8 per cent to 3.5 per cent.

At Bass, Worthington's Best is to drop only marginally less, from 3.8 per cent to 3.6 per cent, while Tennent's Pilsner edges from 3.5 per cent to 3.4 per cent. Interestingly, Carling Black Label, currently being widely advertised, is to register no change.

Brewers claim that the changes will not affect taste or quality. At the same time, they do not deny that they will save money as a result: as much as £64 million. What cannot be gainsaid is the fact the British excise duties are now among the highest in the European Community, beaten in Ireland and Denmark but an astonishing 25 times higher, in respect of beer, than in France. Whisky has not so far been

THE WEAKENING OF BRITISH DRINK



affected by the trend, probably because to be categorised as the real stuff it must have an alcoholic strength of at least 40 per cent. The fact that Norman Lamont, in his last budget, did not tamper with duty on Scotch was another factor.

The Guinness group, which owns Gordon's and other brands of gin, claims that it carried out extensive testing of its reduced strength products before putting them on the market and that drinkers in general were happy with the result. They also claim that "New Men" — and "New Women", too — are looking for a refreshing and invigorating drink, not a passport to oblivion.

WALTER ELLIS

AT LONG LAST WE'VE PUT PAWN ON THE WEST END STAGE.

We refer, of course, to Gary

Kasparov and Nigel Short who

will be competing for The Times

World Chess Championship.

The unbeaten Russian and

his brilliant British challenger

will be doing battle at the Savoy

Theatre in London between 7th

September and 30th October.

If you're lucky enough to be

there, you'll do more than just

watch. You'll actually take part

through a computer system

called Predict-a-Move, which

allows you to do just that.

Tickets for this historic

event are on sale now, but

they're going fast.

For yours, ring First Call on

071-497 9977.

It's your move.



FIRST CALL
071-497 9977
24 HOURS - 7 DAYS

TIMES 24

Fall of New York's icon

Woody Allen will never again be a hero



Allen: selfish slave to his urges

THERE has been one constant throughout the vicious ten-month child custody feud between Woody Allen and Mia Farrow: every Monday the 57-year-old film-maker has played his clarinet in a New Orleans band at Michael's Pub on New York's East Side.

On Monday, just hours after a judge described him as "self-absorbed, untrustworthy" and "insensitive" and awarded custody of the couple's three children to Ms Farrow, he was there again — playing his clarinet and slipping out after the performance.

But something had changed. The crowd clapped as loudly as ever, but some in the audience felt that his decision to continue this weekly musical ritual was somehow inappropriate, that mourning was required. "I've seen Woody play a hundred times," said one of the bar staff, "but I didn't expect him to turn up this week. Would you?"

Woody Allen was once a mascot for this city. His daily pilgrimage from his own apartment to visit Mia Farrow's home on the other side of Central Park, his regular appearances at Elaine's Restaurant and Michael's Pub, the shambolic figure in the crushed fishing hat, were all part of New York folklore. Mia Farrow, a Hollywood personality *au fond*, was never quite taken to the city's heart, but New York loved and was proud of its celebrated native son, "The Woodster".

Eleanor Alter, Ms Farrow's hard-nosed lawyer, said she wondered whether Mr Allen would be able to show his face in public again after the judge's blistering ruling. He will, indeed he already has, but a crucial part of the magic is gone.

Even Mr Allen's staunchest supporters have been forced to admit that his claims to parental responsibility were shaky at best: he could not remember the names of his children's pets, their friends or doctors. He did not even know in which rooms they slept. His decision to file for custody was, he admitted, prompted by Ms Farrow's

unimproved allegations that he had sexually abused their adopted daughter Dylan, seven.

Above all, there was the fact that Mr Allen had had and was continuing to have an affair, complete with explicit photographs, with his children's step-sister. Although, in the course of the trial, Mr Allen described his love affair with Soon-Yi Previn, now 22, as "unfortunate" he failed to appreciate the effects of that relationship on others.

In the words of Judge Elliot Wilks: "He had no consideration for the consequences to her [Soon-Yi], to Ms Farrow, to the Previn children for whom he cared little, or to his own children for whom he professes love."

There were moments during Mr Allen's testimony when one wished he was acting, and in many ways his behaviour under cross-examination reinforced the already widespread assumption that the Woody Allen character on screen is little different from the real one.

But the Woody Allen who emerged from the State Supreme Court in

Manhattan was far less lovable than his screen persona. Here was a massively selfish man, spending his fortune on lawyers just to make a point. While he coached his case in terms of the children's welfare, it was clear that Mr Allen believed the person who would really be damaged was himself. Did he ever genuinely think that he would get custody? The judge thought not, and described the suit as "frivolous".

Even after the ruling, Woody Allen was talking of his own needs. "I could have walked away from this unscaused months ago," he said. "I'm going to be able to see my daughter again." In one brief telephone interview he gave to the New York Post on Monday night, he used the first person singular no fewer than 27 times as he talked of the injustices done to him.

Mia Farrow's 11 children will grow up hearing what he said of her, and what he did to their sister. Naturally, most of them are already in therapy. Even the family dog is in therapy.

In the moral fall of Woody Allen, New York has seen a spectre of its own dark side. He has had no less than 30 years of psychotherapy: the result, to judge from this trial, is a man not more in time with his own urges but enslaved to them.

WOODY Allen's films, with the bare bones of his own tortured psychology poking through, have always provided a window on to the New York soul; here were New Yorkers' self-doubts, their sexual hang-ups and their obsessions writ large. But there was something comforting too in the fact that these were fictions, comically exaggerated for the purposes of cinema, but always self-aware and self-mocking. In the real-life drama there was no caring and no kindness.

Woody Allen will make more films. But few people, and certainly none in New York, will ever be able to watch them in the same way.

BEN MACINTYRE

Best friends, like dogs and their owners tend to look similar. Why is it that beauties rarely seek out beasts, and vice-versa?

Just friends, or are they related?

My best friend theory, known as the "BF" theory, for short, has been gratifyingly in evidence of late. A good example was at the recent opening of the Planet Hollywood restaurant, when Bruce, Arnie and Sly illustrated the theory to a tee.

You've guessed by now, of course, what the theory is: that BFs look alike. Just as we choose our pets in our image, so we choose our friends. They need not look identical, but they have roughly the same level of attractiveness, especially if an outsider. (BFs themselves sometimes find this hard to acknowledge. Modesty ensures that they undersell themselves.)

This Bruce, Arnie and Sly have their physical differences, but the average, short-sighted fan like me

would settle for any of the three. On a mythical Richter scale of glamour, they score the same. Hello! magazine would probably deem them worthy of roughly the same amount of copy, and if looks were rated in the same way as films, all three would be X-rated. Their likeness is enhanced by the fact they dress the same: witness those 501 jeans and T-shirts.

Unconvinced? What of the example of Naomi, Christy, and Tatjana, supermodels, superbly attractive, and BFs? Or the Princess of Wales, whose coterie of fellow Sloanes are more or less as ditsy as she? (Think of Kate Mennies or

Catherine Soames — though I admit at one stage she did have a very plain lady-in-waiting.) More prosaically, spot the Inter-Railers on the trains up from Dover. If there is a tall, blonde Californian backpacker, she is more than likely to be accompanied by a lookalike: a pug-ugly fatty-puff probably has a second fatty-puff in tow. Go to a nightclub and watch tribal warfare in action. The girls hunt in packs of similar-looking lovelies: the fellas likewise.

The older friends get and the longer they have known each other, the more alike they become. The longer Charles Ryder knew



RACHEL KELLY

Sebastian Flyte, the more fey and beautiful he became. Those who aspire to be friends assume the same sartorial and physical characteristics as the objects of

their desire. Of course, there are exceptions. Beauties sometimes choose beasts to enhance their own beauty: the beast hopes she may benefit from the slipstream of rejected suitors. Or a plain, but very rich girl (Christina Onassis) may surround herself with beautiful girls in the hope that some glamour may rub off. Hangers-on are invariably less attractive than those they hang on to (normally the rich and famous) but these are not true BFs.

Then there are those who became BFs at nursery school, long before they were conscious of their

appearances. There are those who say they have no BFs at all. And there are the confusing cases of those who choose BFs of the opposite sex.

But the truth of the theory is proved by the rarity of such exceptions, and how they tend to provoke humour. Laurel and Hardy, the Two Ronnies and Morecambe and Wise all amused in part because of their physical contrast.

We feel happier matched with like. Just as it is more comfortable to go on holiday with someone who has roughly the same income — you can both agree when to hail a cab and that it's time to dive into

a café — so we feel happier being friends with those who look similar, with whom we can shop for the same kind of clothes, with whom we can giggle about the same kind of men. We wish to be proud of our words "Gone proudly friended".

The ultimate extension of this theory is that marriage is an extension of friendship, and people often choose husbands or wives who look like them. I'm often struck by how it might be a brother and sister going up the aisle. (Think of Emma Thompson and Kenneth Branagh.) There are those who say that you can judge whether a marriage will be successful on the brother-sister test: if they look as though they might already be related, the marriage will work. But that is another story.

Be a chef, be a superstar

America's top chefs are being turned into celebrities fit for the talkshow circuit, but don't be surprised that Hollywood came up with the idea, says Kate Muir

For a pioneering nation built on beef jerky and barrels of salt cod, the recent elevation of cooking into cuisine, chefs into artists, and punters into gourmets unexpected, if not downright inappropriate. Rather like a huge soufflé which may collapse at any moment, the American restaurant has become more of a performance space than a feeding trough, and its players are now celebrities.

Evidence of this theory is that any chef worth his or her salt now has a Hollywood agent, not for acting purposes, you understand, but in case another eating establishment wishes to bid for his services, or a quasi-real personal appearance is required at some supermarket, or a tin of beans needs endorsement.

One of the first entrepreneurs to spot the foodie niche was Skip Gordon. A few months ago, Mr Gordon was just an ordinary agent in Beverly Hills, dealing with ordinary, neurotic actors and musicians. Suddenly, the idea dawned. What, after all, did the cognoscenti talk about aside from love affairs and film deals? Food. Knowing the latest restaurant, being on first-name terms with the chef, and a kiss-kissing terms with the *patron d'*, that was what mattered.

His appetite whetted, the dolla signs lighting up his eyes, Mr Gordon created Alive Culinary Resources, a branch of his entertainment agency,

Alive Enterprises. On his books now are not only Luther Vandross and Alice Cooper, but the superchefs Wolfgang Puck, of the famous Spago restaurant in Los Angeles, Mark Miller, of Coyote Cafe in Santa Fe, and Dean Fearing of Mansion on Turtle Creek in Dallas.

Mr Gordon's mission is to make chefs part of the super-

The new chef awaits the reviews, and for his food to be declared provocative and intelligent

celebrity scene and force talk-show hosts to beg them for a sound-bite. Super — once an adjective attached only to Superbute motor oil — now indicates demigod status, as in supermodel and superbrat. Superchefs should anticipate a future of fawning magazine profiles and a lifetime of dodging the paparazzi at society dos.

"Everybody eats," Mr Gordon recently informed *The New York Times*. "Not everyone listens to music but they all consume food. Food is like

software for the body. And these days are not only Luther Vandross and Alice Cooper, but the superchefs Wolfgang Puck, of the famous Spago restaurant in Los Angeles, Mark Miller, of Coyote Cafe in Santa Fe, and Dean Fearing of Mansion on Turtle Creek in Dallas.

Mr Gordon's mission is to make chefs part of the super-

The chefs need Mr Gordon as much as Mr Gordon needs his 10 to 15 per cent cut. After all, even great chefs earn only \$150,000 or so a year — peanuts in Hollywood terms — so a wage-bidding war is welcome, as are those little extra appearances and endorsements. Like an actor, the new chef agitatedly awaits the reviews of his first night, praying for his dinner to be declared "provocative and intelligent" and for the calls to come pouring in.

For the younger chef, born of the PR-friendly generation, agents are not so necessary. In the case of Bobby Flay, the 28-year-old chef-owner of New York's Mesa Grill, self-promotion is instinctive. Critics describe his food as "sassy" and last month there was proof that his efforts had not gone unnoticed, when he was awarded the kitchen equivalent of an Oscar — America's "Rising Star" chef of the year in the James Beard/Perrier Joust restaurant awards.

You can spot the rising star in his airy, Corinthian-pillared restaurant by the words "Bobby Flay — Mesa Grill" embroidered in red and yellow on his



Career move: Bobby Flay's "sassy" food goes with an instinct for self-promotion that makes television the obvious step out of a steamy kitchen

chef's jacket. "I got the call from Skip Gordon, but I do my own PR," says Mr Flay, squeezing green Poblano goat sauce on a passing grilled shrimp. "I talk to the press every day. I call them. They need something to write about. Some chefs are afraid to go after the press. I tell them when we have a new menu, new ingredients, a charity benefit, whatever."

Food writers consult him on important matters and print his word as law. Thus all New York now uses Mr Flay's salsa recipe, and very good it is too.

Of course, the art is not just in selling to the press, but your diners, who must return. The Mesa Grill's southwestern-style menu has "Chef: Bobby Flay" as a reminder at the top, and then launches into near food-pornography: "Grilled whole red snapper with

charred jalapeño-basil vinaigrette served with beet-goat cheese tortilla and spinach," it says suggestively. "Cornmeal-coated rabbit with green onion sauce and soft blue-corn polenta." On the side — homemade muffins, green chile spoonbread and cilantro risotto cake.

Dan Rather, America's favourite television anchorperson, eats here. So do other

famous types, but Mr Flay's lips are sealed as he nips through the swing doors to press the flesh of one. "If I said who they were, they'd never come back. They like that there isn't a fuss here." The Mesa Grill could indeed be described as low key and egalitarian, in that the chef and the customers shop at the same designer — Armani.

The red-haired, freckled Mr

Flay says he will eschew a cover picture of himself and assorted vegetables on his forthcoming cookery book, *Bobby Flay's Bold American Food* (Warner). No state is safe from his plans for domination — he plans to open a mini-chain, starting with a Mesa Grill in San Francisco.

His first job, aged 17, was as a bus-boy in Joe Allen's on New York's restaurant row.

His father was part-owner of Joe Allen's and Orso, both of which have branches in London and Paris, so international expansion is in his blood. The Mesa Grill will not be coming to England, however. On a recent visit, says Mr Flay: "I was going to cook for Terence [Conran], but I couldn't get the fresh ingredients. I couldn't find a decent carrot."

Rebel with a design for life

Is France's most internationally famed design guru really a designer at all?



Attracting controversy: Philippe Starck breaks the rules

Is Philippe Starck a designer? At first the question appears absurd. After all, this is the man to whom the multinationals give *carte blanche* who over the past ten years has put his name to everything from Commodore computers to pasta for Panzini from Japanese office blocks to toothbrushes. He created a apartment for President Mitterrand and a lemon squeezer that looks a cross between an extra-terrestrial and a lethal weapon.

But Starck himself chose the question posed, as the title of a retrospective of his work, which opens at the Design Museum, in east London, next Thursday. Saskia Partington, the museum's senior curator, says: "We were absolutely delighted when he told us this was what he wanted it to be called. I wanted a title which would attract controversy, but we didn't expect something as exciting as this."

Attracting controversy is nothing new to Starck, as a potted career history shows. Now aged 44, he had little formal training, dropping out of design school, but going on to create two of Paris's trendiest — and most infamous — nightclubs, La Main Bleue and LeBains Douches, where the stars lived out the party scene of the 1970s, and with which several drug deaths were associated.

In 1982, President Mitterrand provoked a minor scandal by choosing the leather-jacketed, bestubbed designer

to renovate a suite of rooms in his apartment at the Elysee Palace. The world took notice and Starck went on to design Café Costes, one of Paris's most stylish cafés, and in 1988 masterminded the \$14 million (£10 million) restoration of the Royalton Hotel in New York.

His client list now includes some of the world's largest multinationals, such as Nestlé and L'Oréal, yet Starck appears embarrassed by his establishment connections. He works hard at maintaining the image of the scruffy-dressed *hippy-de-luxe* and does nothing to quash descriptions of him as the nearest thing the design world has to a pop star. He keeps five black Harley Davidsons, in New York, Los Angeles, Barcelona, Tokyo and Paris, and employs as few people as possible, for fear — he claims — of exploiting them.

Ms Partington says: "I think there is a feeling in his mind that you lose some of your

cachet in terms of being a rebel, by designing furniture for President Mitterrand, but he continues to shock and impress, even in some of the most luxurious commissions he has accepted."

When Starck is asked if he is a designer, he is not denying the fact that he designs, rather he is stressing his distance from the rest of the profession. Ms Partington says: "Some of the things he does are quite frightening to the classically trained student. For example, he never visits a site for a building he is working on: he sends instructions by fax. If you have trained for seven years at architecture school that kind of thing is anathema: the first rule you learn is to keep an eye on the builders. And no one would ever pass a degree show with some of the things he produces."

Starck has always espoused the ideals of the Bauhaus movement, that good design should be available to all, not

just to an élite. He places practicalities before aesthetics and the consumer before the critic. "I am not an artist, and I don't make art. My aim is to make a better life, a better world, a simple world. It's a democratic process," he says.

One of his latest projects is a demountable wooden house, to be sold through the *Trois Suisses* catalogue for FF750,000 (£90,000), its purpose being to react against the rapid disfigurement of the French countryside. He says: "It is, of course, normal that everyone should aspire toward owning their own roof. I don't see what right I would have to say from on high, from my nine gardens. 'Stick in your HLM [council house], don't ruin the countryside!' But nothing beautiful is on offer with my kit houses. I want to help them realise their dreams."

He works at speed, "in order to capture the violence of the idea". He once claimed that he had designed a chair in the time it took for the seatbelt signs on an aeroplane to come on and go off.

The studied casualness is faintly irritating, reminiscent of the class swot denying he has done any revision for exams. But there is no denying the wit that all Starck's work possesses. One of his latest works, of which a prototype will be displayed at the Design Museum, is a llama motor scooter, whose handles are in the shape of llama ears. Paul Thompson, the Design Museum's curatorial director, says: "He wants to give each object a soul." Other, larger projects, include the Gaudi-like endeavour of creating the Rue Starck: an entire street on an island near Paris, where he will have designed everything from the dustbins to the houses.

JULIA LLEWELYN SMITH

Share Shop

Your nearest NatWest Share Shop is right here.

Don't miss your chance to register for the third BT Share Offer with the country's biggest Share Shop today! With 2,600 branches, and a Share Shop in every one, you can trust NatWest to make applying for shares easy. And, if demand is heavy, you'll benefit from a greater preference in allocation than if you'd used the Share Information Office.

BT's Share Offer - NatWest Share Shop Registration Form

Ref No. 89154

Complete this form and post it to us today at the address below or hand it in to your nearest NatWest branch. Only individuals may use this form, and your registration must reach us by 5.00pm on the closing date for registration, which is 11.00am on 11th July 1993. Share deals will be arranged through NatWest Securities Limited, a member of the London Stock Exchange and of the Securities and Futures Authority. National Westminster Bank Plc is a member of NatWest Life and NatWest Unit Trust Marketing Group. Registrants may also receive marketing literature relating to NatWest's share dealing services. National Westminster Bank Plc. Registered Number 559277 England. Registered Office: 41 Leadenhall, London EC3A 3BP.

Enter your details at your home address (can also be registered, using this form, if they are 18 or over (20 or over in Jersey). Enter your names below. If appropriate, tick the box(es) if they are a BT Shareholder and/or BT Share Employee, and specify their Registration Number. If you register personally under 18 (under 20 in Jersey) and other individuals, please do not use this form but ask at any NatWest branch for details.

1) Name (surname only) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

2) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

3) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

4) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

5) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

6) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

7) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

8) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

9) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

10) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

11) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

12) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

13) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

14) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

15) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

16) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

17) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

18) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

19) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

20) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

21) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

22) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

23) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

24) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

25) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

26) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

27) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

28) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

29) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

30) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

31) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

32) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

33) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

34) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

35) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

36) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

37) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

38) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

39) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

40) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

41) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

42) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

43) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

44) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

45) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

46) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

47) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

48) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

49) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

50) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

51) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

52) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

53) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

54) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

55) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

56) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

57) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

58) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

59) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

60) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

61) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

62) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

63) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

64) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

65) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

66) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

67) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

68) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

69) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

70) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

71) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

72) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

73) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

74) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

75) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

76) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

77) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

78) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

79) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

80) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

81) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

82) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

83) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

84) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

85) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

86) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

87) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

88) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

89) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

90) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

91) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

92) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

93) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

94) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

95) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

96) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

97) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

98) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

99) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

100) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

101) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

102) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

103) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

104) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

105) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

106) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

107) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

108) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

109) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

110) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

111) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

112) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

113) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

114) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

115) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

116) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

117) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

118) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

119) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

120) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

121) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

122) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

123) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

124) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

125) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

126) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

127) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

128) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

129) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

130) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

131) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

132) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

133) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

134) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

135) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

136) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

137) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

138) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

139) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

140) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

141) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

142) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

143) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

144) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

145) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

146) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

147) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

148) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

149) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

150) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

151) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee ☐ Registration Number _____

152) Name (s) _____
Full forename(s) _____
BT Shareholder ☐ Eligible BT Employee

Alan Coren



It really is him: the funny one on those television gameshows

Someone called the Director of Cabin Services having not only just bused alongside with a packet containing Your Personal Towellette so that I could remove the Non-Dairy Creamer Product which had spat on my tie, but also taken advantage of her visit to enquire whether I would care for any ladies' fragrances, gentlemen's toiletries or smokers' requisites from the Duty Free, and her captain, furthermore, having just announced that Traffic Control was about to sequence us into a race-track pattern which might require an estimatory revision of which he would apprise us as and when, I was naturally feeling a bit glum about the state of the language even before the man in the seat beside me touched my arm and said, "Would it be presumptuous of me to assume that you weren't entirely sorry to see the back of Eldorado?"

I dug up some aimless smile to paste on, pointed it at him, briefly, and went back to my book. I thought it might hold him until we landed: it couldn't be long now, I could see Windsor Castle, it's only five minutes from Heathrow as the crew flies, always depending, of course, on where the crew is sequenced in the race-track pattern, but say ten minutes, tops. And alone in my seat, this man who had sat beside me for two hours had suddenly grasped his presumption with both hands, but I had no intention of spending my last ten minutes off earth in a colloquy about duff soaps with someone so lonely or so barking that he flew the world button-holing perfect strangers for snap critiques.

This, however, was not what he was after. I felt his breath on my ear. "Only you're him, aren't you?" he murmured.

I put down my book. Since he has now joined us, you may wish to know more about him. Well, he looked like Graham Gooch. A bit thinner.

"Who?" I said. "Who am I?"

I really don't want this, I thought. This is not why I got up this morning. I am suspended in a race-track pattern above Windsor Castle, hang on, Twickenham Rugby Ground, now, and I am asking a madman who I am.

"You're that actor in Eldorado," he said. "Sorry, I'm not good with names, faces yes, names no, I don't half feel a fool, it must be terrible being an actor and people not knowing who you are."

"I know who I am," I said, "and it is not that actor in Eldorado. Whoever he is."

"The red-faced one," he said, as if hoping to bring me to my senses. "I think you were a grocer before you emigrated, or was it a fireman?"

"Sorry," I said firmly, rather than smack him, "not me. All right?"

At this, he leaned across the aisle and said something to a woman a little like Annette Crosbie, though taller, who glanced across at me and said something back to him, whereupon he turned to me again, and said: "My wife says I'm getting mixed up."

"She says you are, then," I said.

"There says are you Clive James?"

"Tell her no."

"The Australian?"

"It's still no," I said.

The captain interrupted to apprise us of something or other which could take 15 minutes if our holding was not prioritised, but this did not stop me.

Everybody looks like somebody, these days. Take me, I'm always mistaken for...

"Graham Gooch."

"Nigel Mansell. It's all down to television."

He shut up, then, but of course he was right. I don't know why it hadn't struck me before, but that man who said "Mr Smith, I believe" to the Duke of Wellington, only to be told that if he believed that he would believe anything, was in no way to blame for not recognising him. He hadn't seen him on the box. If he had, he would have gone up to several black-faced men a day, saying: "Oy, you're that bloke from Waterloo!"

In the Heathrow immigration queue, I spotted Emma Thompson, John Gummer, Peter Snow, Fiona Armstrong, Jimmy Greaves — or at least people who could have come through on their passports and excited nothing more than the shy blush which officialdom reserves for fame. There are just not enough faces to go around, any more.



BOYCOTT

9/6/93

The war the West avoided

Europe has not failed Bosnia: it has both given humanitarian aid and withheld troops. Of this it can be proud

David Owen yesterday challenged Europe's leaders either to go to war for his peace plan in Bosnia, or get out altogether. They should get out.

Muslim fighters round Travnik this week took revenge on the Croats who have persecuted them for two months. The Croats have sought refuge with the Serbs and doubtless await their turn to retaliate. Revenge is the fuel of civil war and there is plenty in store in central Bosnia. But one good thing can be said of this outburst. Foreign troops were not involved.

Six months ago the odds were on a far bloodier outcome. European and American governments were being pressed to send soldiers to "do something". Bomb-laden were targeted. Troops were trained and put on standby. Germany sought legal reform to permit a military expedition. The new American president, Bill Clinton, ordered up sea and air forces. On the other hand, a nervous Russian foreign minister, Andrei Kozyrev, warned that parts of the Russian army might intervene if the West took sides against Serbia. Russian support at the UN could not be taken for granted.

Six months ago, indeed until mid-April, Europe and America were contemplating a land war in Europe. It was wrapped in the usual jargon: peace-making, rolling back aggression, limited strike capability. But they were heading straight for Bismarck's famous trap of "some damn silly thing in the Balkans". For the time being, they have averted that catastrophe. They have pulled back from military intervention. With luck they may even stop the diplomatic shenanigans. What is oddly called the international community has matured its response to bush-fire wars. It seems to have found its nerve.

I have no doubt of the turning point. It came on April 16, when Croat guns opened up on Muslim villages near Vitez and later on Mostar. The fact that atrocities had been committed by and on all sides for many months was of no account. Until April the media had served up Bosnia as an Evelyn Waugh pastiche. Muslims and Croats were plucky victims of genocidal aggression from Serbia, a country fit only for a war-crimes trial. The British troops in Vitez in April, however, were accompanied by camera crews. Croats were seen to have murdered children and torched villages. This was not according to script.

The stereotype collapsed. Bosnia became complicated. Margaret Thatcher cancelled a trip to the Croatian capital of

Zagreb. Might she be consorting with war criminals there too? Might the UN have to contend with not one but two genocides? The call for Western military intervention had seemed irresistible as Serbian shells rained down on Srebrenica. The call evaporated. The war party waffled that "something must still be done", but perhaps it was too late. General Forsyth was cashiered and General Hindsight took command.

This month's successful Muslim assaults round Sarajevo and at Travnik should put paid to intervention's latest good idea, UN safe havens. Safe for what? For Muslim militias to regroup, rear and seek bloody revenge on Serbs and Croats? These would be havens where civil UN drivers would run a gauntlet of sceptical Serb and Croat troops. To Serbs and Croats, a haven outside their jurisdiction is an arms dump.

Let us stand once again to remember Europe's one terrible contribution to this civil war. Eighteen months ago, under German pressure, the European Community recognised the unilateral secession from Yugoslavia of first Croatia and then Bosnia. Every intelligence source said that the result would be a bloody Serbian uprising, an uprising that the EC neither would nor realistically could repulse. That error was compounded by EC partition maps that bore no relation to the balance of power on the ground. Military threats were made to enforce these maps, threats as unrealistic as the maps. These inflamed the war.

Yet that is the debt. Let us now consider the credit. The Bosnian civil war has not spread, not even (so far) to reignite the previous war in Croatia. Hostilities have not broken out in Macedonia or Kosovo. There is no fighting in Albania, in Greece, in Hungary or in Bulgaria. The Balkans have not erupted as the war party said last December that it would if the world did not send troops.

One reason is precisely the absence of such troops. Large numbers of Western

soldiers have not landed in Bosnia to "roll back Serbian aggression". Thus large numbers have not died. Such deaths have not led to one of two dreadful outcomes: a humiliating UN withdrawal as in Beirut 1984, or a massive reinforcement. In the latter, the temptation to "take the war to the enemy" in Serbia and perhaps Croatia would have been irresistible. Mr Kosyrev's worst fears would have been realised.

Because the war has remained within Bosnia, Russia has been able to support Western pressure on Serbia at the UN and even go along with such eccentricities as the Vance-Owen plan. If the war spreads beyond Bosnia, all bets are off. Overt Western support for either the Croats or the Muslims would have upset Moscow's delicate internal balance. Russia would have had to veto UN resolutions against Serbia or turn a blind eye to weapons and

men going to the Serbs' aid. An insecure President Clinton, facing an insecure Congress, would have been trapped by the logic of war. "Those behind cried forward, / And those before cried back." In modern warfare, there are always more behind.

A militarisation of the Balkans might have been containable, but the risk was wildly reckless. Militarisation would not end any civil war. It would devastate central Europe's economic reconstruction and reopen a hundred old wounds. Isolating the Bosnian civil war is and always has been vital. Bosnia at present is no advertisement for secession elsewhere in Europe. Terrible things are happening there, but not half as terrible as those in prospect last December.

Nor is this all. The American presidency has struggled amid domestic shambles to stave off the fiercest war fever from the media since Randolph Hearst goaded McKinley to a "splendid little war" with Spain over Cuba in 1898. To be sure, Mr Clinton's secretary

of state, Warren Christopher, travelled the world pressing others to intervene. But by refusing to commit his own troops, Mr Clinton invited the West to reject that pressure. When Senator Joseph Biden, Washington's warmonger-in-chief, said that "all the options are bad ones: we've got to pick a couple", the world decided to play. This was an apparent defeat for Mr Clinton, but defeat in a good cause.

The West, even the EC, has haltingly found a political consensus on Bosnia: to offer humanitarian aid, but not political relief. It has not been alone. Muslim countries have been reticent over intervention. Strong support may be offered to the Muslims in Sarajevo. Money and weapons may be sent. But there is no war fever in Ankara or Tehran.

This political detachment is distinct from humanitarian engagement. The desire to relieve the peculiarly awful suffering of civil war is universal, as is the suffering itself. Bosnia is not the only tortured soul crying for help. Liberia, Sudan, Angola, Azerbaijan and Afghanistan should possibly be higher priorities. Nor can I accept that Bosnia deserves some extra moral magnetism because its refugees are European and, to use the current euphemism for white, "people we used to meet on holiday". Few Bosnians are starving to death. Many Africans and Asians are.

No claim is more senseless than that this war is in some sense Europe's fault or Europe's responsibility or Europe's shame. Granted even the error of EC recognition, the war is a legacy of Yugoslavia's own history and of Bosnia's recent secession. Europe has poured food, medicine and other aid into Bosnia. Europe has not "failed Bosnia". Europe is as entitled to say that Bosnia has failed Europe. As José Gual, veteran of EC peace talks, wrote in last week's *International Herald Tribune*, "World attention has bred in them [the Bosnians] delusions of centrality... making fighters for parochial interests appear champions of universal causes. They are not."

The thesis that we are obliged to resolve such local conflicts with the blood of our soldiers is unsound and thoroughly dangerous to world peace. We have a human obligation to be charitable, which is being honoured. There is no obligation to intervene in a civil war where no wider threat to world order exists, let alone where intervention might create one. Both West and East are still refusing to fight in Bosnia. That is the best news of the week.

Simon Jenkins

Bubble trouble

A GALLIC sledgehammer is once again threatening a Surrey nut as the giants of the champagne industry return to the High Court to renew their battle with the producers of that humble but heartening British summer beverage, "elderflower champagne".

The aim of the French producers, of course, is to overturn February's ruling by Judge Mervyn Davies that allowed the Thornicroft Vineyard to continue making elderflower champagne, on the ground that there is no risk to the reputation of French champagne.

For Sheila and Guy Woodall, Thornicroft's owners, the appeal could not have come at a more awkward time — they are in the middle of a bumper elderflower harvest. Sheila Woodall says: "The weather is fantastic and it should be a knockout vintage, so this is very inconvenient. Quite how members of the public could be confused into buying our product, rather than champagne, when ours costs £2.45 a bottle, I can't imagine. Champagne has had a very good run so far. But the 1980s are over." As the champagne makers are only too aware, in Paris today, they will announce

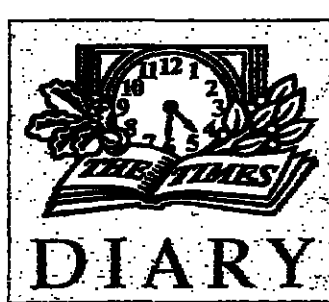
their success in persuading 500 leading French producers to lower their prices of 21 leading *grandes marques* in the hope of boosting consumption.

Sadly a reduction in British champagne prices looks unlikely. Raymond Blanc, chef and proprietor of Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons, near Oxford, says: "There is definitely room for French restaurants to bring their prices down. But if they asked me to reduce my prices I would say no. We do not mark prices up just for the fun of it." Perish the thought.

Green fingers

CONTINUING the theme of summer pursuits, John Major's horticultural habits have endeared him to at least one small corner of the voting populace. The Delphinium Society is delighted by the news that he spent an afternoon after the reshuffle planting its blooms. So delighted that it wants to sign him up.

The 1,400-strong society has sent a couple of application forms (£4 a year per person) to No 10 in the hope of encouraging the prime minister and his wife to become



standard-bearers. "There's no time like the present. I'll pop it in the post straightaway," said Shirley Bassett, membership secretary. But she says there is little chance of delphinium breeders granting the prime minister the ultimate accolade. "There is a Lord Butler delphinium, but I don't think we'll see the John Major," says Bassett. "It's not often that they are named after politicians."

Do they sit well?

DEBBIE HARRY, best known as the lead singer from the pop group Blondie, has taken on a new challenge. She has recorded a "rap" version of a song by Dame Edith Sitwell. The song, "Something Lies Beyond the Scene", was written by Sitwell, something of a groover in her day, and perfor-

med to music by William Walton. Written in 1923 as part of *Façade* (described by *The Oxford Companion to English Literature* as a "highly original, entertaining, and varied in syncopated rhythms"), the song was probably first performed by Sitwell in the drawing room of her brother Osbert's house.

In London on Monday night, at the launch party for *Splendours and Miseries*, a biography of brother Sacherevell, William Sitwell, the poet's great-nephew, confided: "Edith performed *Façade* through a curtain with a megaphone. She was quite unusual."

He is confident his great-aunt would approve of Harry's interpretation. "It is bringing her poetry to

a new audience. She pretended she didn't like publicity, but she loved it really."

Any other bids?

LORD OWEN's name is linked to no end of jobs. But it is another former peace envoy to Yugoslavia who currently looks close to actually landing one. Little more than six months after he stepped down as the EC's peacemaker, Lord Carrington is being tipped for a new post with international responsibilities. The former defence minister is being mooted as the next president of Voluntary Service Overseas.

At 74, Carrington has lost none of his zest for work, in either the public sector or the private. He still receives a salary of £35,000 as chairman of Christie's — even after a £20,000 pay cut. The money at the VSO, as all volunteers would confirm, is not quite in that league.

About the house

CRITICS of John Smith's leadership will not be able to fault one of the distractions that divert him from attacking the Tories. It seems that Smith spends rather a lot of time doing housework. Every inch the new man, Smith proudly

boasts that he does more than his wife, Elizabeth. "I am rather good at washing up. Or at least putting the dishes into the machine."

The Labour leader was speaking at the launch of Harriet Harman's book *The Century Gap*, which examines the state of marriage, work and democracy. Harman says working women average three hours a day housework, working men only 17 minutes.

"Oh I do comfortably more than that," says Smith. "I do a lot of the cleaning and the cooking. I enjoy it. I think Elizabeth would be prepared to say that I do more housework than her." Prepared maybe, but sadly not present — probably at home doing the ironing.

Christchurch Tories were due to pick their candidate last night for the forthcoming by-election. Favourite on a shortlist of three was Barbara Ashford, a borough councillor in Virginia Bournemouth constituency who was also on the shortlist at Newbury. Ashford and Bottomley have been friends for years. Strongest competition for Ashford was likely to come from Robert Hayward, the former MP for Kingswood, who is John Major's personal psychologist. The third candidate was Stephen Chalk, Tory leader of Wiltshire county council.

No turns needed here

Michael Howard says the way ahead is straight and clear

Ten years ago tomorrow the Conservative party won a landslide victory with a majority of 144 seats. It was the election at which I entered the House of Commons, together with most members of the No Turning Back group. Even during that election there were complaints about the thinness of the manifesto.

Not long afterwards there were complaints of drift. The government, it was alleged, was running out of steam. Very little of consequence was achieved in that first year.

How do things compare today? The manifesto on which we fought last year's election, far from being thin, was attacked by many as being too full. From the first day we have worked ceaselessly at implementing its provisions. After one year we have all but put on the statute-book measures to extend home ownership, speed up the development of derelict land, reform employment law and tighten up the law on asylum. Close behind are the bills to privatise the railways, reform education and provide for confiscation of drug traffickers' assets.

The principles we are applying are the those which govern our approach in the 1980s, but many of the new measures involve applying them to the most difficult areas, not previously tackled. Wages councils are to be abolished. Private sector disciplines will be introduced to the railways to improve service to the customer. Market testing is underway in Whitehall to a quite unprecedented extent. Compulsory competitive tendering in local government is being extended to white-collar workers.

By any fair comparison, this is a government with a clear sense of purpose. We have already put in place about a third of our manifesto programme. We are well on course to complete the job by the end of the parliament.

So why has there been so much criticism? Obviously the length and depth of the recession has not helped, but I believe there are two main reasons for the current sourness among some critics.

First, there is the impact of the government's small majority on its decisiveness. It is absurd to ascribe a government with a majority of 18 to not behaving as if it had a majority of 100. It is a fact of our parliamentary life that we have to tack and weave occasionally. It has taken some time for the government and Parliament to come to terms with this. It is perhaps not surprising that it is taking outsiders even longer.

The second reason is Maastricht. At the time, commentators were rightly lavish in their praise of the prime minister's negotiating skill. We secured vital concessions on monetary, trade and the social chapter and on other important issues. Now these bouquets are forgotten. The proceedings have been difficult and protracted, but there is almost in sight. With Maastricht ratification nearly achieved and with economic recovery clearly beginning, we can look to the future. And on Europe as on any other issue, we have a programme around which the Conservative party can unite.

Over the next few years we have a chance to create a Europe in Britain's image. The flexibility, the competitiveness, the resilience to regulation which we prize so highly will be increasingly attractive to all European partners. Over the last 18 months our unit costs fell by 2.5 per cent. Germany's rose by 8.8 per cent. It is becoming more and more apparent to the Germans that this is not a trend they can allow to continue. So they and others will be driven to reduce their overheads, to reinvigorate their industry, to eliminate the rigidities which regulation brings in its train.

As enlargement of the Community looms, the institutions and theories of the EC will require adaptation. Centralisation will be seen to be unworkable. The straitjacket of uniformity will be recognised as intolerable. Common sense is on our side.

At home we will press forward with a strong programme of measures to combat crime. We will build a partnership between the police and the public. We will reform our system of criminal justice so that it becomes less of a esoteric innocence or guilt. We will carry through testing at schools so that parents know how well their children — and the teachers — are doing. We will privatise the railways and British Coal. We will make the market work for the environment. We will press forward to drive for home-ownership. We will extend compulsory competitive tendering and market-testing to every corner of the town hall and Whitehall.

We will pursue these policies not through any devotion to dogma or affiliation to ideology, but because they are in the interests of the British people, because they will improve the condition of our people and increase the opportunities. We will do all this under John Major, a prime minister who combines practical idealism with a shrewd sense of realism.

Of course there will be a turning back. We can be immensely proud of our achievements of the past 14 years. And as we face the future we shall continue to be guided by the principles that guided us then. These are themes which have transformed our past. They are themes which will sustain our future.

This article is an extract from *Home Secretary's speech last night: the No Turning Back group*.



LORDS OF MAASTRICHT

A pity that real debate has been left so late, and to the Lords

The best minds can stray in the House of Lords. Lord Healey mixed up his civil war, blaming the Tory divisions on Maastricht for "deepening the crisis in Yugoslavia". Lord Howe mixed up the sexes in attacking "the noble Lord Thatcher". Lord Callaghan's perspective was magnificently Olympian but somewhat bewildering: however self-evidently desirable it may be to preserve "the peace and sovereignty of the European mainland", he failed quite to explain why the Maastricht amendments to the Treaty of Rome were indispensable to this purpose. Yet in the past two days, the peers have collectively done far more to clarify the main arguments for and against Maastricht than the House of Commons achieved in the course of weeks on end.

The virtues of a chamber where there is no discipline from a Speaker, where the whips use velvet gloves, where cross-benchers are genuinely independent and the great majority has no pretence or Cabinet office in prospect or to lose, show to greatest advantage where constitutional issues are at stake. In the Commons, by contrast, the very word constitutional was like an evil spell, an anti-Maastricht incantation not to be whispered from either front bench. Government and Opposition took refuge in safer battles over amendments on such matters as the nature of British representation on the Council of the Regions or the protocol on social policy appended to the treaty as midnight chimed in a small Dutch town in 1991. Even the most assiduous follower of these debates can have learnt next to nothing about the treaty's impact on British institutions, economic and foreign policies and the daily life of the European Union's citizens.

The confusion and subterfuge that disfigured the Maastricht bill's difficult progress through the Commons gave Lady Thatcher her strongest argument in favour of a national referendum: her belief that few British people realise, even now, what the treaty entails is well founded. The Lords this week picked up where the Commons' second reading might and should, have started by

devoting two days not just to the case for further European integration but to the wisdom of adopting the route set by the Maastricht treaty and its consequences for Britain's traditions of democratic accountability. Above all, most of the speakers addressed these central questions in the language of Everyman.

The government's anxiety to fend off further detailed scrutiny of the treaty showed through in Lord Caird's complaint that the British Parliament had already taken three times as long as any other European legislature on ratification and might end by taking longer than all of them put together. With around 500 amendments down for committee stage, each one of which can be debated under Lords rules, the sceptics will give him an uncomfortable few weeks. But the constitutional and legal implications of Maastricht deserve the expert scrutiny the Lords traditionally provides. One such aspect is the potential conflict between European Union and Britain's Commonwealth commitments: and while this may concern no more than a minority of Britons, the underlying principle of a British government's fidelity to its legal undertakings is anything but trivial. Ministers should be aware of placing the peers under excessive pressure. If they did so they would compound the political error of rejecting a referendum. They might rally their lordships behind Lord Tony's emotional appeal to "let the people as a whole decide".

This week's debate gave a glimpse of what might have been if Mr Major had not employed parliamentary sovereignty as his shield against an open national debate. The sky has not fallen in, nor will it if the Lords overcome their scruples about appearing to go against the will of the Commons and vote for a referendum. The pity is that relatively unfettered debate on Maastricht has been left so late, and left to the Lords. Had Mr Major made room for it earlier, and in the wide arena of a national referendum, trust in the government would be stronger than it is today.

EDUCATING BILL

Washington needs focus on essentials not new-dawn rhetoric

President Clinton's steep fall in popularity, the gaffes and misjudgments, his vacillation over Bosnia, China, economic and social policy, his withdrawal of contentious nominations, and his failure to fill more than 400 senior government posts show an administration in trouble. The swift of public opinion seems to suck it daily further down. The appointment of David Gergen, a former communications director for President Reagan, to make order out of the chaos in the White House is at least recognition of the danger. Some of the youthful idealists who came to power in January are wiser now: some are gone. Much more reassessment is still needed. Mr Clinton needs to set himself a few priorities and construct a discipline to stick to them.

Most newsmen sweep into Washington with naïve hopes that a fresh agenda and the euphoria of storming the citadels will so enthuse the body politic that wonders can be achieved within weeks. Against just such triumphs of innocence over experience that the founding fathers designed a constitution whose checks and balances would temper zeal with continuity. President Clinton is finding more continuity than he anticipated.

The institutional rivalry between the White House and Capitol Hill is barely altered by the change of administration: for all the hopes that a Democratic Congress would co-operate with a Democratic president, he is only now learning that cajolery, brutality and guile are the essential enforcers of a legislative programme.

Not only does Mr Clinton need to

immerse himself in the nuances of congressional politics; he needs also to rise above this deadly quagmire with a visible authority that cannot be flouted with impunity. Such authority comes only from a compelling vision, a ruthless concentration on essentials and an almost Teutonic chain of command. President Reagan's first administration succeeded so well because he set himself a limited number of domestic and foreign goals and never lost sight of them.

By contrast, Mr Clinton, like Mr Carter, has mistaken hard work, commitment and attention to detail for effectiveness and influence. Like Mr Carter, he is in danger of dissipating his effort and jeopardising the legislative success of those items central to his presidency by the unpopularity of peripheral causes. Allowing youthful aides to wander into the Oval Office unscheduled destroys any semblance of efficiency. Failing to anticipate the fall-out from sensitive issues of race, gender and quotas has delayed the formation of a fully-staffed administration.

Mr Clinton however is a fast learner. He is hauling his fissionable team back to the political centre, putting pragmatism more often above party advantage and bringing in the grey heads who know how Washington works. He is on the point of an uncontested nomination — Bruce Babbitt — to the Supreme Court. If his presidency can leave a comprehensive health care system to his country, a smaller deficit and a new structure of international free trade, he will have achieved much. He has now to focus on these priorities.

SMALL BEER

Drinkers need more civilised choices, not just more alcohol

Someone is watering the beer: it is an invertebrate English suspicion. The man, the very fat man, who waters the workers' beer, has been rousing trade unions in rowdy song since seaside conferences were invented. Lloyd George was believed to have had the beer diluted in pubs near centres of ammunition-production during the first world war, in order to keep the wheels of the home front turning without a hiccup.

This economical dread of letting the water get into the beer goes back far beyond Dickensian poboy hustling pints of small beer suspended from poles, and thrifty Mistress Quickly, and landlords exhorted to fill the flowing bowl with strong beer, until it doth run over. On his expedition towards Babylon four centuries BC, Xenophon recorded that the barbarians drank beer, very strong when not mixed with water, but agreeable to those accustomed to it.

The professional waterers of beer are the large brewers several of whom have quietly reduced the alcohol content in their beers in order to meet bigger excise duty bills under the new tax system. For the past 113 years, duty on beer has been charged on gravity before fermentation. From this year it is being calculated on the alcoholic strength of the finished product. The Brewers' Society says that this will add £64 million to brewers' tax bills, which accordingly can be reduced by a drop of water.

Ever stronger beer is a daft old Teutonic standard of virility. The fashion has been

exaggerated by the campaign for real ale, which concentrates on the alcoholic strength of its old peculiars and dog-bolters and ferret-strangers. There should be more to beer-drinking than getting drunk as quickly as possible, especially during a heat wave in which Britain is hotter than the Bermudas. Attempts to civilise British drinking habits have always been subject to the law of unintended consequences, ever since the Romans imported the vine. What consumers presumably want and deserve is more choice, of brewers and strengths and types of beer. Old mild ales, which have an unfortunate cloth-cap image, have been squeezed out of existence by the modern craze for stronger alcoholic ales and lagers. Beers advertise themselves only by their strength and number of virility crosses.

There ought to be nothing wrong with weaker beer: provided that its strength is clearly labelled and it is not surreptitiously overpriced. It is a more congenial and civilised summer drink than the special killer-lagers, and could bring the nervous non-drinking classes back into the pubs. Other European countries provide a much wider range of beers, from the non-alcoholic to the eyeball-popping, for all sorts and conditions of drinkers. Brewers are right to water their beer — they always have done so. But they must be made to do so imaginatively and competitively, to help Britons in their old problem of distinguishing between social drinking and coarse drunkenness.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Reality of banging technology drum

From Mr Anthony Burns

Sir, I was immensely impressed by the high purpose and positive sentiments expressed in the letter (June 1) from Sir Ralph Robins and a phalanx of distinguished captains of industry about the white paper on science and technology. I confess also to indulging in a wry smile when I read it.

For the past ten years, Corda, a charity dedicated to the prevention of premature death and disability resulting from cardiovascular disease, has promoted the development of a unique magnetic resonance scanner designed to examine the inside of vital arteries for the presence of the diseased tissue, atheroma, at an early stage and to characterise it in order to determine the threat it poses to the well-being of the individual.

The scanner is about a third of the size of conventional machines, costs less than half their average price of £1 million and is small enough to fit inside a modified motorway bus to facilitate its primary purpose of population screening. It is a unique expression of the same British talent for brilliant technological innovation about which the white paper speaks and to which Sir Ralph's letter alludes.

All this research has been funded entirely by charitable donors, by whom the prospect of the new scanner has been hailed as a bright new hope on the preventive medical horizon.

From commerce, to whom we must now look to help us carry the invention to the wider population, and from the NHS, which has so much to gain from its wider availability, we have experienced a leadership response that bodes ill for the lofty ambitions of the white paper.

The picture is not entirely bleak, however. Unbidden by us, at least two substantial bodies are showing an avid interest in developing this near-market technology for the £4.5 billion world-wide magnetic resonance diagnostics business that lies at our feet. One is American and one Malaysian.

Yours faithfully,

ANTHONY BURNS
(Executive Director),
Corda (Coronary Artery Disease Research Association),
Tavistock House North,
Tavistock Square, WCI.
June 4.

Music in schools

From the Chairman of the London Philharmonic

Sir, I support Professor Dickinson and his colleagues (letter, May 29) in their plea for the retention of specialist music tuition in schools.

We have recently founded our own youth orchestra, and greatly appreciate the need for training young musicians in this country. The lifeblood of all our national orchestras is at stake and, as Professor Dickinson pointed out, this country has, in the past, been unparalleled in providing our young musicians with the training they need.

Our particular venture is entirely funded through business sponsorship, in our case Audi, and therefore reliant on the good will of the private sector.

It is indeed sad to concede that local authorities and government appear to be withdrawing their vital support in this area of education, and we will surely count the costs in years to come when our failure to nurture young talent results in a loss of excellence in all our musical institutions.

Yours sincerely,

SIMON CHANNING,
Chairman,
The London Philharmonic,
35 Doughty Street, WCI.
June 1.

Matter over mind

From Mr Douglas Lowndes

Sir, Toast falling on the carpet butter-side down is not true resistance (letter, June 2), for the toast is responding to natural forces. Authentic resistance requires an element of the creepy, as when two wire clothes-hangers placed 3ft apart are found inextricably entangled when the wardrobe door is next opened.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS LOWNDES,
1 Colville Court,
Great Missenden,
Buckinghamshire.
June 3.

Pension differential

From Sir Ian Morrow

Sir, Public service pensions are inflation-proof. Private pensions are restricted to a maximum increase of 5 per cent in any one year. This differential is unjust and unfair.

The new Chancellor of the Exchequer has a great opportunity to demonstrate his belief that low inflation is here to stay by announcing that public service pension increases will be restricted to the same maximum as the private pensions.

In the event he is wrong, he can at least claim he is cutting government spending.

Yours truly,
IAN MORROW,
2 Albert Terrace Mews, NW1.
June 3.

Business letters, page 27

Alternative sources of crime figures

From Professor Jonathan Shepherd

Sir, The unreliability of police statistics as a measure of rates of crime is now well known (Simon Jenkins's article, "Riding the crime wave", June 2). This results from the non-reporting of many crimes, even of violence, and different and changing police recording practices.

Michael Howard, the new home secretary, would do well to make more of British Crime Survey data: not least because he will find that some crimes have increased only modestly since 1987. Unfortunately, though, because the BCS is carried out by the Home Office, he will remain open to the criticism that findings have been massaged. Furthermore, because the BCS depends on reports given to interviewers in the home, information on domestic violence may not be entirely accurate.

For these reasons, this information needs to be supplemented with information from medical sources. Accident and emergency departments are excellent sources of information about serious violent crime and their statistics are already computerised in many hospitals. Despite the fact that people are at the same time patients and victims, there is virtually no collaboration between Home Office crime prevention and Department of Health injury prevention programmes, though objectives are shared.

Any search for greater objectivity in Home Office and media reporting of rates of violent crime should result in fewer administrative barriers. With safeguards to preserve confidential information about individual patients, making the BCS a collaborative project funded jointly by the Home Office and the Department of Health would be a step forward.

A more collaborative approach might also help to prevent miscarriages of justice because medical information would be more easily

available to the criminal justice system. Detainees with medical needs might also receive care of a higher standard.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN SHEPHERD
(Professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery),
University of Wales College of Medicine,
Heath Park, Cardiff.
June 4.

From Mr Michael Murphy

Sir, Simon Jenkins says that crime should be repatriated to the community. Why not adopt the American system, and allow police chiefs and magistrates to stand for election? The community would then have the responsibility if things went wrong, and the remedy to put it right.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MURPHY,
165 St John's Hill, SW11.
June 3.

From Professor Julius Gould

Sir, I welcome some but by no means all of Simon Jenkins's arguments in his latest version of his article on crime. But he should learn the danger (and at times the offensiveness) of pointless exaggeration.

When he writes, as he does, that "the yearning to rule the nooks and crannies of British life runs like a Stalinist toxin through this government", his overstatement becomes itself a toxin. Piquantly he later claims that "nowhere is the gulf between cliché and reality wider than over crime".

Perhaps Mr Jenkins should read up on Stalinism before launching unpleasing clichés of his own.

Yours faithfully,
JULIUS GOULD,
32 Claire Court,
Woodside Avenue, Finchley, N12.
June 3.

Paediatric beds

From Dr Neil R. Bennett

Sir, Your report (May 28) on the BBC television programme *Public Eye* draws attention to a national shortage of paediatric intensive-care beds.

This comes as no surprise, because it was one of the findings of a report published by the British Paediatric Association in 1987, which showed that significant numbers of critically ill infants and children were undergoing treatment alongside adults in general intensive-care units.

It was recommended that these cases should be managed in a separate paediatric intensive care unit or area. Little attention was paid to this report and there remain frequent occasions when our existing paediatric intensive-

care units find that they have insufficient beds to satisfy demand.

An Audit Commission report published earlier this year also emphasised the importance of providing separate paediatric facilities and specially skilled staff in those hospitals which manage sick children.

Nevertheless, the present contracting arrangements for children's services appear to pay inadequate attention to the specification and funding of satisfactory paediatric intensive-care facilities.

Yours faithfully,
N. R. BENNETT
(Chairman, United Kingdom Paediatric Intensive Care Society),
Sheffield Children's Hospital,
Western Bank, Sheffield,
South Yorkshire.

Lloyd's losses

From Mr Michael Pearl

Sir, John McQueen's letter (June 3) raises the issue that there are alternatives to both bankruptcy and the "lifelong penalty" which some MPs may have imposed on them by Lloyd's. The 1986 Insolvency Act provides a procedure known as a voluntary arrangement.

Simply, this involves a debtor who cannot hope to pay all his debts agreeing with his creditors that they will accept a fixed amount over a period of years in full and final settlement of all liabilities. This is a court-supervised arrangement of, typically, four to five years.

In my experience, schemes yielding as little as 10p in the pound are often agreed to by creditors where the only alternative is a more expensive bankruptcy which is likely to yield even less.

Such schemes require the agreement of only 75 per cent of the creditors by value and, once that level of assent has been obtained, it is binding on all creditors, including those who voted against the scheme. So, for example, where an MP's debts to Lloyd's are less than a quarter of his overall liabilities, if the other creditors consent, Lloyd's would have no choice but to be included in the overall arrangements.

Most importantly, entering into a voluntary arrangement does not disqualify a person from being a member of Parliament.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL PEARL
(Director and Head of Legal Services),
The Centre for Consultancy,
8 & 14 Clusters House,
8 Battersea Park Road, SW8.
June 3.

'Freedom' of the road

From Mrs Liz Elliott

Sir, Your motoring correspondent reports (June 2) that the cost of driving is rising at four times the rate of inflation. As the DTI forecasts that the number of cars on the road is set to double by 2030, maybe he ought to be questioning the cost of driving, to the countryside, to our health and our quality of life.

Although 60 per cent of those surveyed by the AA believe that their freedom would be restricted if they were forced to use their car less, the prevalent "car culture" restricts the freedom of us all.

Our children can no longer cross the street: we are forced to use dangerous underpasses; our pets die; our win-

Mature pursuits

From Mrs Ann Fanshawe

Sir, I take issue with the author of your report (June 2) on Mrs Nora Naish, aged 78, and her forthcoming first novel, for saying that "the usual sedate pursuits of a septuagenarian" are "jam, Jerusalem and village fetes".

I am a septuagenarian, almost an octogenarian, and the pursuits of myself and my friends are degrees in the Open University.

Yours faithfully,
ANN FANSHAWE,
Parsloes, Bracon Fleming,
Barnstaple, Devon.
June 2.

Sudan denial

From the Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan

Sir, I was dismayed by the repetition in your leading article of May 25 of baseless allegations about camps of terrorists in Sudan financed and supervised by Iranians. We categorically deny that such camps exist or that Sudan is providing arms or assistance to help them operate.

Any independent and fair observer would recognise that Islam and Muslims are the victims, not the offenders, in the current wave of violence threatening modern civilisation and coexistence between different cultures.

With best regards,
ALI MOHAMMED OSMAN
YASSIN,
Embassy of the Republic of Sudan,
3 Cleveland Row, St James's, SW1.
May 26.

down remain shut against traffic noise and pollution. If sites of scientific, historical or recreational importance are not safe from road construction (Twyfrod Down, Oxleas Wood), what hope is there for places of merely "everyday" beauty?

Against these, how important is the "freedom" to duplicate a journey made by public transport, the "freedom" to cocoon oneself from one's fellow man and the "freedom" to listen to the car radio?

Yours faithfully,
LIZ ELLIOTT,
8c Carlton Drive, Putney, SW15.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Churchill's views on immigration

From Mr Michael Austin

Sir, As most of us who have participated in a discussion on immigration in a public house or works canteen will know, Mr Churchill's sentiments (letters, June 1, 3) are shared by the majority of British people.

With very few exceptions, politicians of all parties, media moguls and the educational establishment have consistently tried to stifle these views. Anyone who dares to break this taboo does so at his peril.

The danger inherent in this policy is that ordinary moderate citizens, unable to express their deep-seated concerns through the normal democratic outlets, will vent their frustration by turning to extreme right-wing political groups, as they have in Germany and France.

To voice the concerns of a substantial section of the population is a proper function of a member of Parliament. Winston Churchill should be congratulated on having the courage to do this.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL AUSTIN,
10 Blagdon Close, Crediton, Devon.
June 3.

From Mr David Harris

Sir, Your robust rejections of Mr Winston Churchill's claims on the level of immigration into Britain (leading article, May 31) were illustrated by statistics in the same issue showing 18 London districts with ethnic minorities averaging 26 per cent, Leicester with 28.5 per cent, and Birmingham with 21.5 per cent.

By any standards this represents a huge change in population structure and will have a far greater impact on the British way of life than Maastricht.

Who asked the British people whether they wanted this? And if nobody did, why not?

Yours enquiringly,
DAVID HARRIS,
Cobweb, Rosemary Lane,
Haddenham, Buckinghamshire.
June 1.

From Mr Rajnikant J. Mehta

Sir, The secretary of the Brent Indian Association, Mr Gulab Mistry (letter, June 3), is treading on dangerous ground when he suggests labelling the British citizens of Indian origin as "British Indians". This would only perpetuate the segregation and prejudice that Winston Churchill and his like wish to impose.

Moreover, the description connotes people who lived in colonial India and is best avoided. Until future generations decide to be called British and nothing else, the present generation may — for reasons of cultural and emotional identity — continue to call themselves "British people of Indian origin".

Yours truly,
RAJNIKANT J. MEHTA,
18 Leigh Court,
Byron Hill Road,
Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex.
June 3.

From Mr James Macdonald

Sir, Mr Mistry raises the important question of individual classification. By culture, race, probably mother tongue and very likely religion he is presumably proud to be Indian, yet he is also British. By the same token I am a Scot, and also British.

Mr Mistry suggests a linked term, "British-Indian", rather than in the USA certain universities and many libraries insist on the terms "African-American", "Native American", etc. Yet if "British-Indian" becomes correct for Mr Mistry, we should also in fairness speak of "British-Scot" and "British-English", which is becoming absurd.

The description "British" could be reserved for legal and external use — when travelling abroad, for instance. Mr Mistry and I would still be accepted for what we are by birth: he an Indian and I a Scot. The state may award or remove our citizenship, but it cannot take away our nationality.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES MACDONALD,
58 Clifford Avenue,
Taunton, Somerset.
June 3.

Serving the continent

From Mr Charles Dodd

Sir, Perhaps the higher costs imposed for facilities at Paddington on gentlemen rail travellers to the West (letters, May 25, 27, 29) indicate a Welsh plot to discourage visitors.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES DODD,
21 Pine Close,
Horsell, Woking, Surrey.

Friendly fire?

From Mr I. A. Shapiro

Sir, The Queen, at Epsom, cannot have heard the royal gun salutes on June 2. Who enjoyed them? Was this discharge environmentally friendly, and what did it cost? Might not such anniversaries be more agreeably celebrated by military bands performing in London parks?

Yours etc.,
I. A. SHAPIRO,
93 Oakfield Road,
Selly Park, Birmingham 29.

Derek Harris reports on the pressures to find funding for management buy-outs

Britain's venture capital industry, increasingly beleaguered in the recession, faces its biggest opportunity for years — and what may prove its toughest challenge.

The reviving economy means companies, especially at the medium and smaller end of the scale, will be needing funds to expand to meet the demands of increasing sales. And the trend towards creating new businesses through management buy-outs and buy-ins is also expected to continue.

One strong indicator of the greater demand for venture capital was a recent survey by the British Venture Capital Association (BVCA) among venture-backed companies. Almost 80 per cent of these entrepreneurs were confident of increased sales over the next six months and half expected to be needing additional finance. Equal proportions (60 per cent) said that they would be going to their venture capital backer or their bank as preferred sources of funds.

The pressure on venture capitalists to come up with substantial contributions will be all the greater because high street banks are taking a much tougher stance than for years. Buy-outs and buy-ins are also being structured much more conservatively than in the pre-recession era, with venture capitalists now typically taking on between 30 and 50 per cent of total value as equity.

The so-called "captive" venture capital organisations — subsidiaries of the big banks and insurance companies — have the advantage of their parents' deep cash reserves. NatWest Ventures, an offshoot of the National Westminster Bank, sees the advantage of unlimited long-term funds as freeing it to take an equally long-term view of equity investments. There is not the same pressure as from some external investors for investments to be realised within a specified time, usually by a stock market flotation or sale to a third party.

The "captive" and 3i, Britain's largest single venture capital provider, account for about half of venture capital investment in the UK. 3i, largely owned by the Bank of England and the clearing banks, often stakes modest amounts — £50,000 or less — as well as larger ones. Generally, most venture capital providers cannot justify commercially deals of less than £250,000 to £300,000.

The in-road into the recession saw 3i profits fall last year by nearly 40 per cent from a 1990 peak of £53 million, while levels of net assets have moved little in three years. Gross investments were declining in the latter half of last year. A stock market flotation for 3i has long been viewed as a way of injecting dynamism into the organisation, but in April the plan was postponed indefinitely.



On the buses: Stagecoach MD Ann Gloag joins mechanics in the garage pit to check over one of her vehicles

Just the ticket for world-wide growth

Independent venture capital companies have to go out in the market for their investment funds, so their performance — giving a good return for investors like pension funds — is crucial if more institutional money is to be charmed into their coffers.

The latest annual analysis by the BVCA, covering last year, shows all too clearly how pension funds have cooled



Ron Hollidge optimistic

about backing venture capitalists. In 1991 the independents raised about £250 million from pension funds but last year this dropped to less than £160 million, partly because of

a big fallback in investment from north America. However, markedly more was raised than in the previous year from insurance companies — about £70 million — and investment by corporate and private investors also improved.

Last year the BVCA, with its 115 venture capitalist members, invested £14.4 billion worldwide in 1,297 companies. This was a respectable 15 per cent increase on the previous year. Some £1.2 billion, or nearly 90 per cent, was invested in the UK. Management buy-outs and buy-ins accounted for 65 per cent of cash invested, and another 29 per cent went on funding for expansion. Start-ups and early stage investments accounted for 6 per cent of all investment and 17 per cent of all financing deals.

The independents have already begun wooing the institutions. Morgan Grenfell Development Capital and Schroder Ventures have both announced the launch of new funds and at least two other major players, Candover Investments and Charterhouse Development Capital, are believed to have been taking soundings.

Morgan Grenfell says it will start marketing "hard" its new £200 million fund during the autumn, and hopes to be closing it in about 12 months. Success in raising funds will rest crucially on current performance, says Susan Deacon, marketing executive. She points to some of Morgan Grenfell's fast realisations, such as the £100 million management buy-out of Taunton Cider, which within 15 months was capitalised on the market at £175 million.

Morgan Grenfell, like most other venture capitalists, is looking for management buy-outs in the £20 million category, although it expects funding to rise for expansion as well. Large buy-outs may have been thinner on the ground than a few years ago, but they do still occur. CINVen, which claims to be Europe's second largest venture capital company, led the £402 million Gardner Merchant contract catering buy-out from the Forte group earlier this year. CINVen manages funds of more than £900 million, including the capital assets of the pension funds of British Coal, British Rail and Barclays Bank.

In April, Stagecoach, the Scottish-based bus operator with interests all over the UK and in Malawi, Kenya and New Zealand, came to the market with a capitalisation of £134 million. It was founded in 1980 by the brother and sister team of Brian Souter, chairman, and Ann Gloag, managing director, to take advantage of the privatisation of Britain's bus services. At the end of 1988 they took a fast route to expansion as Murray Ventures, part of Murray Johnstone, led a band of Scottish institutions in putting up an initial £5 million to fund fresh acquisitions.

Funding the institutions to go back into the venture capital market in force will not be easy, admits Ron Hollidge, the new BVCA chairman and managing director of Lloyds Development Capital, part of the Lloyds banking group. "There is a strong perception in the markets and among investors that smaller companies are the place to be in investment terms for the next two to three years. But it would be easy for the atmosphere to change so that the venture capital and buy-out market will be seen as a good thing, which is when the institutions would come back in," he says.

While optimistic about venture industry growth, Mr Hollidge is keen for the BVCA to tackle the problem of small business investment needs, especially by putting its muscle behind providers of modest equity investments such as "business angels" and investment "marriage bureaux". One idea under discussion at the BVCA is to create a membership grade for individuals and organisations of this kind.

Managers keener to bid for companies

During the late 1980s the importance of management buy-outs and buy-ins from receivers was negligible. In the 1990s, there has been a dramatic increase in receiver buy-outs in 1991 and 1992 represented one-fifth of all buy-outs, Ken Robbie and Mike Wright write.

Buy-outs from receivers are, on average, smaller than buy-outs in general. They have accounted for about 10 per cent of buy-out value in 1990-92, when 232 receiver buy-out transactions, worth £690 million, were completed.

In addition, there have been 41 management buy-outs of businesses being sold by receivers worth £120 million in 1990-92. There are important differences between the financial distress and receiver buy-outs of the early 1980s and more recent receiver buy-outs. Those in 1990-92 are more likely than those completed in 1980-85 to be in London and the southeast; to be in non-manufacturing industries; and to be subsidiaries of failed groups, rather than independent companies which had gone into receivership.

A report by the Centre for Management Buy-out Research (CMBOR), at the University of Nottingham, showed that the principal causes of failure which resulted in receiver buy-outs were mainly parent-company related, most notably working capital fail-

Staff buy-outs from receivers are becoming more common.

ure, trading performance, acquisition policy and market collapse.

The importance of the problems associated with acquisitions policy was seen in the fact that most had been a subsidiary of the group for no more than three years. Reflecting the notion that failed groups may contain parts which are viable, 65 per cent of the sample were operating at better than break-even, with only a quarter making losses. Groups such as Coloroll, British and Commonwealth, Burns Anderson and Maxwell are good examples of acquisitive ples which were forced into receivership, but out of which emerged viable buy-outs.

While managements undertaking such buy-outs appear motivated by the desire to save company and staff jobs, strong reasons for buy-outs include "push" and "pull" factors. Managers seem to be considerably more proactive in mounting a buy-out attempt than was the case in the last wave of receiver buy-outs a decade ago. Some 86 per cent of managers in the CMBOR survey claim to have taken the initiative for the buy-out. Almost half had made a previous unsuccessful at-

tempt to buy the company; the most common reason for failure to buy out is vendors asking too high a price.

Just over one-third of managers buying from the receiver consider starting a new company. A half have alternative employment opportunities, and a similar proportion would refuse to work with an alternative buyer.

Buying a company from receivership presents many practical problems, given the need for purchasers to complete effective due diligence within a short time period, as the receiver tries to prevent significant loss of business. Thus, in almost all cases, management approaches the company immediately on receivership; the majority of buy-outs take less than two months.

The most important problems in dealing with the receiver appear to be the need to obtain the highest price, followed by their desire to complete the deal very quickly. Management's position is normally also complicated by competition. Almost three-fifths of respondents to the survey had to increase their offers, but two-thirds were still able to purchase assets at a discount to book value.

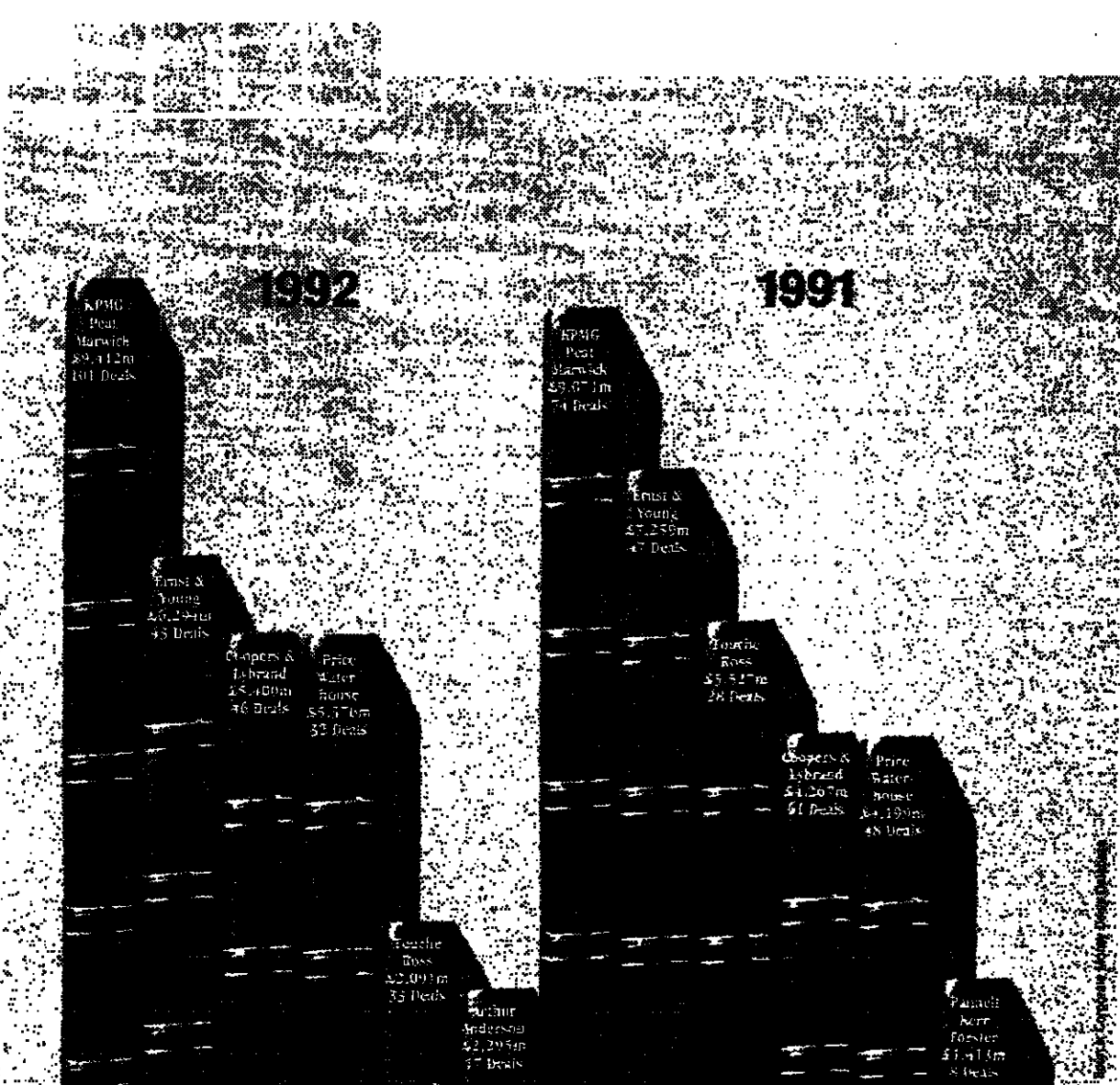
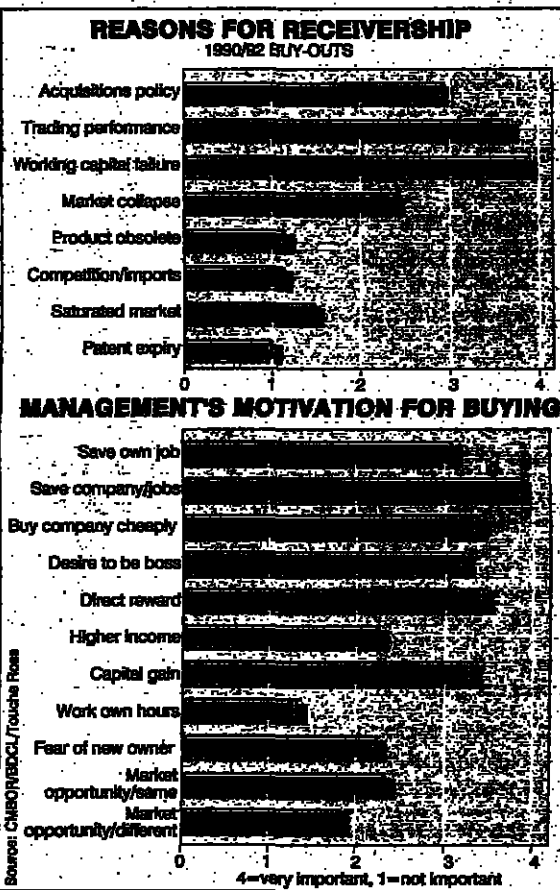
A management bid will frequently have advantages for the receiver over trade bids. Experience by advisers such as Chris Ward, a partner of Touche Ross Corporate Finance, is that the former's due diligence is less time-consuming and should not reveal anything management and bankers do not already know.

Following buy-out, the "team" is likely to instigate changes to ensure stability of the new company. Receiver buy-outs exhibit a greater amount of post-completion change, particularly in personnel and financial areas, than buy-outs generally.

About two-fifths effected redundancies at the time of the buy-out. In the short period in which these companies have been buy-outs, just under one-third managed to outperform their business plan. However, one third of companies had also experienced cash flow problems.

The progress of recent buy-outs will be watched to see how well managers can revive companies from an otherwise terminal position.

The authors are respectively research fellow and director at the Centre for Management Buy-out Research. The report, Management buy-outs from receivership, is available from CMBOR, University Park, Nottingham NG7, price £25



KPMG tops best seller list for 2nd year.

In the last year we acted in defence of more than half the contested £50 million-plus takeover bids in the UK. Whilst, in the last 10 years, we have handled more UK flotations and major MBOs than any other firm.

Which means if you want a distinctive edge in corporate finance, for both you and your clients, KPMG can offer chapter and verse.

For more information please contact Gerry Acher, UK Head of Corporate Finance, on 071-832 8640.

KPMG Corporate Finance

This advertisement appears as a matter of record only

May 1993

£ 272,700,000

Management Buy-In

of the Consumer Products Division of BP Nutrition, comprising the Robert McBride Group Limited (UK), the Yplon Group (Belgium and France) and Solaro (Italy).

Negotiated, Led and Arranged by
Legal & General Ventures Limited

Institutional Equity Underwritten by
Legal & General 1993 Equity Fund and Underwriting Pool
Lehman Brothers Merchant Banking Partnerships
Phoenix Fund Managers
Ontario Teachers Pension Plan Board
Barclays Development Capital Limited

Mezzanine Underwritten by
Mithras Investment Trust plc (Lead Arranger)
Intermediate Capital Group Limited (Co-Arranger and Agent)

Senior Debt Underwritten by
Bank of Scotland (Lead Arranger and Agent)
Morgan Grenfell & Co Limited
Barclays Bank
Bank of Tokyo

Legal Advisers
Ashurst Morris Crisp (Newco and Institutional Equity)
Norton Rose (Mezzanine and Senior Debt)

Reporting Accountants
KPMG Peat Marwick
Ernst & Young

Advisers
Bank Julius Baer & Co Ltd



Legal & General Ventures Limited
a member of L&G

From one pot of gold to another

Companies are being sold on to new backers, say Ken Robbie and Mike Wright

There has been a significant change in attitudes towards "buy-out exits", when the original venture backers redeem their investment. While in 1991 and 1992 flotation was extremely difficult to achieve, this year there has been a growing number of investors announcing their intention to exit in this way.

A high level of receiverships of both buy-outs and buy-ins, however, continues to affect the market. In 1992, there was a record total of 172 exits from buy-outs and buy-ins, but of these, 104 were through receivership. Total trade sales increased but those of buy-outs remained below the record levels seen from 1988 to 1990. Trade sales of buy-ins, however, equalled their record level.

The effect of recession is seen in the high levels of receiverships. This is particularly noticeable in respect of buy-outs and buy-ins completed in the late 1980s. These were frequently bought at price-equity ratios, which, with hindsight, appear to have been unjustifiably high. Combined with the effects of high debts, it is not surprising that more than 11 per cent of buy-outs completed from 1987 to 1989 have failed.

In contrast, only 7.6 per cent of those buy-outs completed between 1982 and 1986 have failed. For management buy-outs—where risks are higher because of the lack of previous inside knowledge of the target company—more than 30 per cent of deals completed in 1988 have failed. The recent receivership at Swan Hunter has also illustrated the vulnerability of some remaining buy-out companies.

Such trends appear to present a depressing view of buy-outs and buy-ins, but there have been encouraging signs in that the overall rate at which buy-outs and buy-ins are failing is dropping significantly.



Selling out: Professor Mike Wright, left, and Ken Robbie, of the University of Nottingham, say that venture capitalists are now buying out buy-outs. In May, Gold Crown Foods was sold for the second time

More prudent financial structures, the ability of venture capitalists to take early corrective actions as a result of their monitoring and control, and lower interest rates all point to further reductions in the rate of receiverships.

In addition to outright failures of buy-outs, there have been a number of major refinancings. Venture capitalists have also had to spend an increased amount of time controlling their investments. This has reduced their capacity for investing in new opportunities. Improving economic and financial conditions mean that these problems will slowly disappear, although considerable effort may be needed in the short term to deal with the dangers of over-trading as buy-out companies' liquidity is stretched by an upturn in trading activity.

More optimistic stock market conditions may allow some buy-outs that have been subject to refinancing to achieve a further restructuring through flotation. MFI managed to achieve this in 1992, while Alders and BPCC have been widely reported as considering this option.

The problems surrounding the unlisted securities market (USM) illustrate the difficulties that smaller buy-outs may experience in

attempting to exit. Until 1987 the majority of buy-out flotations were on the USM but costs of listing and illiquidity of stock have meant that no buy-outs were listed in this way after 1989. Consequently, to float, a buy-out has to be much larger than was the case in the mid-1980s. The

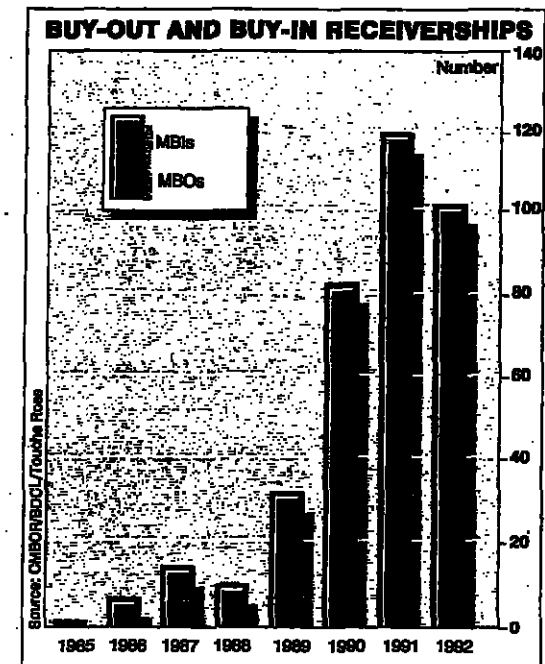
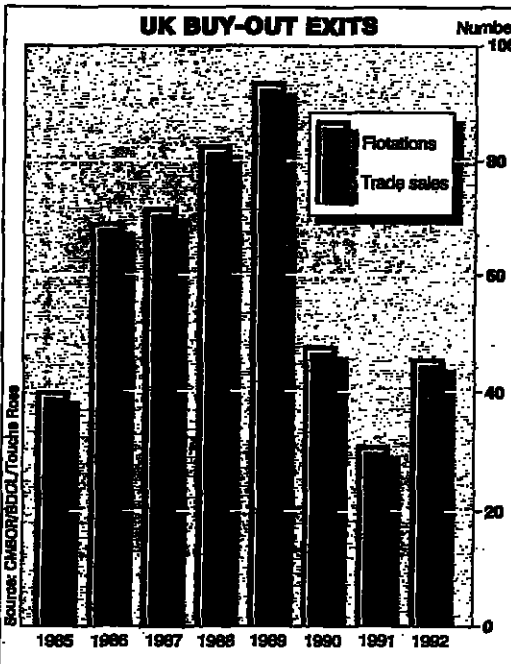
average market capitalisation on float of a buy-out company rose almost ten fold between 1986 and 1992. Flotations with a market capitalisation of less than £20 million are in general now considered to be impractical. Research by the Centre for Man-

agement Buy-out Research (CMBOR), at the University of Nottingham, shows that larger buy-outs (with an initial transaction value of over £10 million) are significantly more susceptible to exits by investors than smaller ones. Investors in smaller buy-outs

have to consider the possibility of exiting through one of two alternative methods: either a trade sale or a secondary buy-out or buy-in. The former has been the more popular option to date, despite the depressed conditions existing in the overall mergers and acquisitions market. Trade sales of well-run buy-outs and buy-ins provide a way for venture capitalists to realise all their investment—frequently at more attractive PE ratios than may be possible in a flotation. For the company itself, it may provide access to funds for capital expenditure or new market opportunities.

Clearly there are pressures on many venture capitalists to exit from deals and this is an area of growing interest for professional advisers. Chris Ward, a partner at Touche Ross Corporate Finance, recently commented that he was working with a number of venture capital houses to develop innovative ways in which exits can be achieved, even in a relatively flat market.

The short-term outlook for buy-out and buy-in exits, therefore, looks more promising than for some time. Trade sales, and most notably flotations, are increasing while the number of receiverships is easing.



Better targets for Europe

Fewer but bigger deals has become the theme of the European venture capital industry. Although there is plenty of money around to invest in worthy entrepreneurial causes, the new trend has been encouraged by the recession and applies as much to divesting as investing.

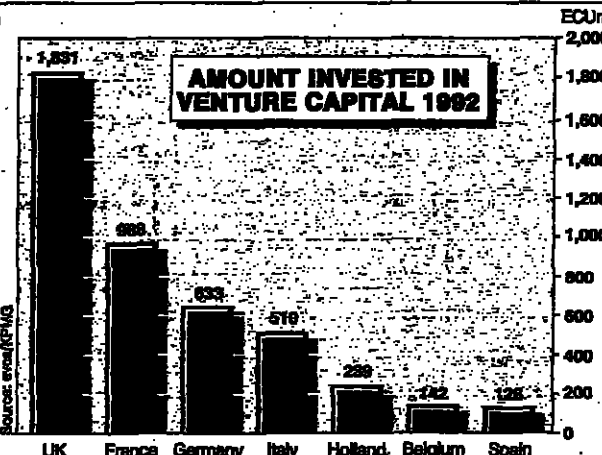
European venture capital funds increased the amount they raised in 1992 fractionally to £3.3 billion, after two years of decline, according to the annual survey published last month by the European Venture Capital Association (EVCA). Far from being deterred by the economic downturn in Europe, venture capitalists drew on unspent funds raised in earlier years and invested £3.9 billion, an increase of 1.5 per cent.

Yet the number of companies backed fell by 10 per cent to 6,197, while the average size of deals grew from £54,000 in 1991 to about £627,000 last year.

The EVCA's chairman-elect, John Singer, says: "We were expecting depressing figures. While we were not exactly bubbling, it has been an encouraging year. It would have been easy for us to hold back, but we found more money. Venture capitalists have been there as rock-solid partners for small and medium-sized businesses."

Mr Singer also points to the help that is given to start-ups and very small companies. The EVCA's statistics for 1992 show that two-thirds of the

Investors looking to the EC for rich pickings are improving the focus of their deals, reports Rodney Hobson



money invested went to companies with fewer than 100 employees. Nearly a fifth had fewer than ten employees while only one deal in ten helped a company with more than 500 employees.

"We must remember that venture capital is not only for the early stages of enterprise, but also to provide active support for the dynamism of even well-established industrial businesses such as Germany," Mr Singer says.

However, the need to help smaller companies exercises the minds of many venture capitalists. John Hustler, head of venture capital at KPMG Peat Marwick, which helped

to produce the EVCA survey, says: "There is concern about how the deals of tomorrow are going to be available if more is not put into start-ups today."

Mr Hustler is concerned at the demise of the Business Expansion Scheme (BES), which gave tax concessions to investors who backed businesses that could not raise funds through conventional methods. "Something must be done in the UK and in Europe. A partnership between venture capital and governments must come about soon," he says.

Mr Singer wants governments to consider copying the United States in introducing

incentives for private investors, who are often more willing than financial institutions to take a long-term view. At present, the only measure of how well an investment has performed comes when the venture capitalist disinvests. Nerves can be frayed when, as at present, getting out is difficult.

The venture capital industry is trying to find a way of measuring the performance of investments as they go along to enable financial institutions to stay with the investment for longer. Mr Singer says: "Fund managers who need to match assets with liabilities have to respond to the pressures on them. But pension funds can take a longer-term view and we are looking to these as an untapped source of venture capital in Europe."

Banks, on the other hand, have been major supporters in Europe, particularly in France, providing about 35 per cent of venture capital. But the EVCA detects that banks are increasingly separating their lending operations from their venture capital arms, so that decisions on whether to lend or take equity stakes are taken on commercial grounds.

Despite attempts to harmonise business in Europe, venture capital remains largely a national affair. The UK is still way in front in terms of funds raised and amounts invested. France and Germany follow, with Italy in fourth place.

In some cases, funds are established specifically to invest domestically and potential investors are invited to participate on that basis. National governments also try to channel money into their own small businesses, as with BES.

However, Mr Singer says: "More and more we are finding that venture capital funds are anxious to bring other countries' investors into a syndicate, for example when trying to build up a share in a particular industry."

Trade harmonisation has certainly encouraged sales of companies to foreign enterprises as a way for the venture capitalist to realise a better price on disinvesting and for companies to gain a foothold abroad.

Mr Singer believes that these are great times for those who have money to invest. "The opportunities are there, but they can be difficult to find. A venture capital fund might look at 600 deals a year and invest in only ten. Companies must target their efforts."

IT'S AS TRUE
TODAY
AS IT'S ALWAYS
BEEN,
NEVER
TAKE ANYTHING
FROM STRANGERS.



Before we invest in a company, we spend time getting to know its market. We spend time getting to know the business. We spend more time getting to know the people who run it.

Then we spend time working with them to agree a deal.

When it comes to negotiations you'll find us flexible, tough, but above all fair. Hardly surprising we're one of the UK's top development capital companies.

If your company is looking to arrange an MBO, or if you need expansion or replacement capital, call us. London 071-600 3226. Birmingham 021-200 1787. Leeds 0532 441001.



LLOYDS DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL
Lloyds Development Capital Limited is a subsidiary of Lloyds Bank Plc and a member of The Securities and Futures Authority.

FORSYTE KERMAN SOLICITORS



Specialist legal advisers to
MBO Teams for over a decade

For our MBO brochure contact: Peter Carter
79 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 8AQ

Tel: 071 637 8566 Fax: 071 436 6088

Where to find the best value

**'The gap
between the
North and
South is
narrowing'**

The A30 providing the northern route to Cornwall is dual carriageway to beyond Launceston

Yonder Wreyland, Lustleigh, Newton Abbot
 "Accessible to Exeter, a beautiful garden, and a cottage included with one of
 the prettiest thatches in Devon."

But bear in mind Mr Laing's perceptive remark: "The fact that prices have held up in Scotland and Yorkshire mean that it is likely that these counties will also be good bets in the future. Maybe they are the best places to buy after all."



MARY WILSON

[illegible]



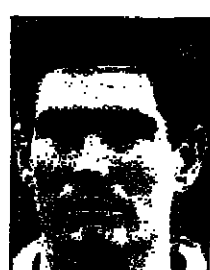
MEDIA 30

Observations from Fleet Street's newest editor



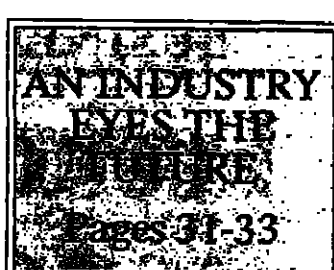
ARTS 37-39

Sam Mendes has big plans for a little theatre



SPORT 40-44

Nigel Clough gets England call-up to face America



THE TIMES 2

WEDNESDAY JUNE 9 1993

BUSINESS TODAY

CALLING



Vodafone Group has targeted South Africa in the next stage of its plans for global expansion in a new joint venture
Page 25

SEEKING

Great Portland Estates is raising £95 million through a rights issue to fund its search for property acquisitions
Page 25

AGREEING



France will accept an agreement on oil seed subsidies drawn up by the European Community and America
Page 24

THE POUND

US \$ 1.5198 (+0.0015)
German mark 2.4648 (+0.0001)
Exchange index 79.0 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 2844.4 (-0.4)
Dow Jones 3518.63 (-15.53)
Nikkei Avg 20575.24 (-288.95)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 6%
3-month Interbank 6.5/6%
US Federal Funds 3%
3-month Treas. Bills 3.12-3.11%
Long Bond 6.89%

CURRENCIES

New York: London 1.5198
SF 1.6238
DM 2.4648
Sfr 1.4570
Yen 106.30
Ecu 1.0710
London Foreign market close

GOLD

London Pm (5)
AM 373.75
Close 374.80-375.20
New York
Close 374.75-375.25

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 140.6 April (1.3%)
* Denotes midday trading price



Painful price: Neil Clarke sporting a tennis injury yesterday at Weymouth, said the cost of change will be high at British Coal

British Coal to shed 3,000 white-collar staff

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH Coal yesterday announced the loss of a further 3,000 jobs and made clear that pay settlements this year could only be financed by improvements in working practices.

The corporation also said it has made a low-priced offer of coal to the electricity generators, and would like to see shorter, more flexible contracts with the power companies and its other customers once current contracts expire.

Neil Clarke, chairman of British Coal, announced the latest job losses, which will fall entirely among white-collar staff, in a speech to the annual conference of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers in Weymouth. The job losses are a result of planned reorganisation of management and administrative staffing levels in light of colliery closures.

The job cuts will apply across the corporation and country, including the head office in London, a decision on the closure of which has not yet been taken.

The reorganisation will involve the company's current five constituent groups being reduced to three or even two. Mr Clarke told the UDM: "By reorganising now, we will not

only be reflecting the shape and size of the new market for coal, we will also be putting ourselves in a better position to influence it. But I fear the cost will be high. The burden of realignment in the demand for coal is very severe. It seems likely that in the region of 50 per cent of our non-industrial staff will have to lose their jobs." British Coal has about 6,000 white-collar staff above colliery level.

Since the pit closures an-

nouncement last October, 16,000 jobs, with the loss of 18 pits, have been shed.

Though the UDM heard most of Mr Clarke's speech in silence, the 50 per cent job cut provoked a sharp reaction. Neil Greetz, UDM president, said it was the first time the union had been made aware that so many jobs would be lost. The bulk of the losses should be borne by senior management, he added.

Mr Clarke was subjected to

some hostile questioning by UDM delegates, but they applauded his speech and presented him with a coal statue as a gift. He made it clear that in its pay negotiations, British Coal will be unwilling to reach any deal that is not accompanied by changes in working practices to improve pit productivity.

He also seemed to indicate that pay awards would be below the level of any government public sector pay guide-

lines. Potential private sector operators who were interested in licensing mines would, he said, be likely to seek to reduce costs by rewarding their employees in different ways.

Mr Clarke said that gas-powered electricity generating stations looked likely to be an even larger and earlier threat to coal than the company had anticipated. Nuclear stations also looked competitive.

Diary, page 27

BT alarmed by warning shots from new regulator

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

OFTEL has ruled out any break-up of BT, clearing the way for the £5 billion sale of the government's remaining stake in the telecommunications company next month.

But Don Cruickshank, new head of telecoms regulation, signalled a further tightening of the regulatory regime. Declaring past regulation "rather short of what was needed," he called into question BT's long-standing claim that it needs big rises in domestic rentals if call charges are to fall.

"There are some very dated assumptions being made, I suspect, on costs," he said, adding the big network renewal of the past five years should have cut BT's fixed costs. "I haven't had a satisfactory answer on that from BT."

BT reacted with alarm to his remarks. "That is monstrous," said a spokesman. "He hasn't asked us." BT insisted that the government has accepted the need for rebalancing ever since the 1991 white paper which extended competition in the telecoms industry.

OfTel's tougher stance on line rental charges was made clear as the regulator published a second consultative document on the issue of interconnection arrangements under which competitors gain access to BT's local lines.

Mr Cruickshank wants to extend OfTel's discretionary powers so as to force BT to publish separate detailed accounts for its retail and network businesses. Competitors would then be able to see that BT's network operation was charging them the same price for use of local lines as it levied its own retail operation. He believes this would end repeated claims by rivals, including Mercury, that competition has been delayed because of the

difficulty of getting interconnection agreements with BT. BT, which still carries 90 per cent of calls on the final stage of their journey to homes and offices after almost a decade of competition, has offered to publish prices. But it remains steadfastly opposed to the accounting separation proposed by OfTel, believing it would involve a "major" restructuring of the business.

BT will be bound to restrict overall price changes to the level of the rpi minus 7.5 per cent from August, a formula certain to result in lower charges. Because BT has been allowed to raise line rentals while concentrating price cuts on international and long distance calls, most of the benefit of price cuts has in the past gone to business users.

But just two months after his appointment, Mr Cruickshank seems ready to question every aspect of the existing regime. "OfTel's objective, is to obtain the best possible deal for the end user in terms of quality, choice and value for money, principally by promoting efficient competition."



Cruickshank "assumptions"

Former MGN chief charged

By ANGELA MACKAY

THE former deputy managing director (finance) for Mirror Group Newspapers was yesterday charged with two offences of false accounting and one of conspiracy to defraud relating to a £50 million loan to the company made by Bankers Trust, an American bank.

Michael Stoney, 45, of Hunters Meadow, Dulwich Wood Avenue, south London, was remanded on bail of £50,000 to appear at City of London magistrates' court on July 19, along with the five others — including two of the late Robert Maxwell's sons,

Kevin and Ian. They have been charged as part of an investigation by Serious Fraud Office into the Maxwell affair. Mr Stoney has to surrender his passport to the police, but he was granted leave by the court to travel in July with his family to Florida, for a one-month holiday and to hand back his passport to the police within 24 hours of returning.

Mr Stoney was accused of conspiring between August 1 and December 3, 1991, with Kevin and Robert Maxwell to defraud MGN by obtaining from Bankers Trust, in MGN's name, a revolving credit facility

for £50 million but did not use the loan to conduct MGN business. He was further charged that between October 21 and December 2, 1991, he falsified the general ledger of MGN by omitting, or concealing in the omitting from it, the receipt on October 21, 1991 of £50 million from the Bankers Trust Company.

He was finally charged that between the same dates he falsified a group financial report by omitting, or concealing in the omitting from it, the liability of MGN to Bankers Trust Company in respect of a revolving facility for £50 million.

Government will set the tone for BT3

On the surface, the latest proposals from OfTel, ahead of the sale of the state's remaining stake in British Telecom, are reassuring. In his first policy statement, Don Cruickshank, the new director-general of telecommunications, said that he wants to tighten regulation, but then doesn't every utility regulator always want greater detailed control in the short term, regardless of the supposed withering away of regulation as competition grows at some mythical time in the future? More positively, Mr Cruickshank says that he does not aim to break Britain's top company asunder in the interest of fair competition. More circumspectly, OfTel would not change the tough new four-year price-cutting regime "on information currently available to it".

That is as statesmanlike as can reasonably be expected of a newly installed regulator, who has just seen BT formally satisfy the latest required price cuts via schemes far removed from what OfTel had in mind. Mr Cruickshank quite reasonably aims to close such loopholes. His approach should not, however, pull the wool over the eyes of investors being bombarded on every side to join the

BT3 circus. The chief regulatory issue is what happens in 1997. Barring some new breakthrough, it seems unlikely that, in a low-inflation economy, BT could continue to cut prices by 7.5 per cent a year less RPI inflation without savaging profits. The millions of us who own BT would have to hope for the unlikely innovation of lower price control.

If competition bites deeply into BT's market share, meanwhile, leaving it the unprofitable but obligatory low-use residential business, then BT would not be allowed to unwind its current cross-subsidies and raise charges to the very people most in need of a regulator's protection. In the classic potential conflict between protecting consumers and promoting competition, which OfTel correctly exposed, BT would be squeezed.

Should BT remain the dominant competitor, in spite of the latest attempts to entice more newcomers, then Mr Cruickshank will be under pressure to try more drastic measures. That need not be an immediate call to



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

familiar. It was precisely the question of "network" charges at British Gas, and the attempt by Ofgas to impose a rate of return lower than on risk-free gilt-edged stock, that landed British Gas in the monopolies commission. That put it under threat of fissile demolition — at the hands of the commission rather than Ofgas.

That is where ministers come in and why the government's declarations — or lack of them — should be crucial to investors' attitudes to BT3. Once the monopolies commission starts pondering fundamental restructuring, it is up to ministers to approve or disapprove. That power should be exercised even when ministers might, in theory, just be able to wash their hands of it, for the commission's role is the weak link in the regulatory system.

Under most of the regimes, a

regulated utility has a right of appeal to the commission against rulings of its regulator. In practice, that is more of an additional threat by the regulator than a safeguard for the regulated when big issues are at stake. Once the commission is brought in, it becomes its usual self, investigating more or less anything it feels like and comes to its own judgment and rulings on its own investigations in "the national interest". Some appeal court. Only in the most extreme circumstances, or when it felt it has nothing to lose, will a regulated company risk a full commission judgment.

Only if the government makes clear that it would not countenance break-ups of internationally important companies in its own version of the national interest can a regulated company have much recourse from a national regulator. There is a strong case for ministers to rule out companies being broken up against the will of Parliament at the time of privatisation, unless the facts have radically changed since. The outcome of the commission's enquiry into British Gas will not be known until after BT3. Unless the government makes a clear policy commitment, investors should assume the worst.

Maine-Tucker Recruitment Consultants

YOU WON'T BE GOING ANYWHERE WITHOUT A DECENT SECRETARY...

WHY?

Because you will be stuck at home base...

...Proofing letters for a third time!

...Fixing meetings because you're too worried that your Secretary might mess-up!

BUT HOLD ON A MINUTE — SHOULDN'T YOUR SECRETARY BE DOING ALL THIS?

Better call Maine-Tucker because it's too risky to let anyone else recruit your Secretary... you need one of their red hot PA's. What's more, their 3 month 100% refund indemnity guarantee is worth having.

Look at the Facts.

- It's a race to recovery, so you need the best back-up possible.
- The business cake is growing, guarantee your slice of it with the very best support available.

Hit the ground running and call Maine-Tucker.

18-21 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6HP.
Telephone 071 734 7341 Fax 071 734 3260

French pave way for conclusion to Uruguay Round

By COLIN NARBROUGH
WORLD TRADE
CORRESPONDENT

FRANCE'S centre-right government has decided to brave an angry response from the French farming community and end government resistance to a key transatlantic agreement that has been blocking progress towards a world trade accord.

Alain Lamassoure, the French minister for European affairs, informed a meeting of Community foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg of Paris's decision to drop its objections to a deal between Brussels and Washington covering trade in oilseeds, such as soyabeans and linseed.

The French decision removes another roadblock to the Uruguay negotiations finally achieving an agreement

■ Chances of a new world trade agreement moved closer when the new French government dropped its objections over oilseeds, soyabeans and linseed

that would liberalise trade in manufactured goods, farm products and services.

Russia yesterday announced its intention to formally apply for membership of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the free trade organisation that has overseen the Uruguay round since it started in 1986.

At the GATT headquarters in Geneva, trade diplomats were frenetically trying to arrive at a consensus behind the next director general of the organisation to take over from Arthur Dunkel, the current head, at the end of this month.

Peter Sutherland, the former European commissioner is the preferred candidate of the EC and America, but Latin America has been pressing hard for the top job.

The French decision marks a turnaround for the French government, which had threatened to veto the accord reached by EC and American negotiators last November to reduce oil seed production.

John Major welcomed the French move and said he hoped the EC could now move forward on other agreements in the Uruguay Round. "Although that is a separate issue from the oilseeds agreement, agreement on oilseeds was a necessary preliminary. It now removes one of the roadblocks towards moving to a comprehensive GATT agreement," the prime minister told the Commons.

But Alain Juppé, the French foreign minister, made clear that other aspects of the EC-US deal remained unacceptable and not compatible with the EC's common agricultural policy. He said the EC must protect its position on world markets.

Sir Leon Brittan, the European trade commissioner, told the Luxembourg meeting that, after his discussions with Mickey Kantor, the American trade representative last week, that an outline GATT deal on reducing tariffs and barriers to market access could be agreed at the Group of Seven summit in Tokyo in early July. That deal could then be introduced as part of the overall talks on the Uruguay Round accord.

The Community has decided to put on hold a far-reaching trade agreement with Russia.

Under the farm trade agreement between the EC and America, EC farmers will be forced to set aside 10 per cent of land used for oilseed production and limit cultivation to 12.67 million acres.

US sets schedule for Japan surplus cut

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

US TRADE officials have presented the Japanese government with a hard-hitting masterplan to cut Japan's trade surplus.

The proposal, which comes before the series of trade talks that are scheduled to start on Friday, amounts to a set of tough conditions embedded in polite language. It sets out a framework in which the US can set specific and measurable goals for Japan to achieve by given deadlines. While stopping short of a threat to impose sanctions should Japan fail to meet such conditions, the approach comes close to "managed trade", something Japan has rejected as a solution.

The US already operates a managed trade agreement with Japan in the semiconductor industry, under which American companies are guaranteed a minimum 20 per cent share of the Japanese market, but Tokyo has been opposed to an extension of this agreement to other industries.

Both sides hope to reach agreement in their trade talks before the Group of Seven summit in Tokyo next month. The framework proposals have been presented to the Japanese ambassador in Washington for study before Friday's meeting.

Specifically, the framework agreement includes an envisaged cut in Japan's global trade surplus from a present rate of 3 per cent of gross national product to less than 2 per cent, and possibly much less, by 1996. Of more concern to Tokyo are some of the industry-specific items. The proposal sets out five categories into which individual trade disputes are classified. These are believed to be compliance with existing agreements, motor cars and car parts, regulated industries, government procurement and a general basket of issues.

The American trade deficit with Japan was close to \$50 billion last year, 59 per cent of the total US deficit.



Cover for a market flotation: Sir Philip Harris, of Carpetright, yesterday

Carpetright valued at £113m

By JON ASHWORTH

SIR Philip Harris, the carpet entrepreneur who bowed out of the City with a £70 million payoff five years ago, is bringing his fast-growing Carpetright chain to the stock market in a deal worth £58 million. The flotation price of 148p a share values Carpetright at £113.6 million and will raise more than £9 million for Sir Philip and his charitable trusts.

He will keep a 20.8 per cent stake in the company. About £4.5 million will go to the trusts. The placing and offer for sale will raise about £58 million of which £8.9 million

will go to Carpetright. Sir Philip said it was "very exciting" to be returning to the market after five years. No takeovers are planned.

He was forced out of Harris Queensway in 1988, after profits collapsed and it was taken over for £477 million by a leveraged buyout consortium led by Sir James Galloway. Two years later, the renamed Lowndes Queensway group collapsed with debts of £200 million.

MFI Furniture Group is selling its 20 per cent holding in Carpetright for £21.5 million, which will repay part of

MFI's £75 million borrowings. NatWest Ventures is reducing its stake from 14.5 to 5 per cent, raising £9.3 million. Philpotts Ventures is raising £10 million.

The flotation price represents a multiple of 2.18 times pro forma earnings per share for the year to May 1. Notional gross dividend yield is 3.37 per cent, with notional cover of 1.75 times. Of the 39.2 million shares, 13.7 million shares are being offered to the public. Dealings are due to begin on June 23.

Tempus, page 27

Saudis aim to lift oil prices and maintain quotas

FROM REUTER IN GENEVA

SAUDI Arabia, the world's biggest oil producer, has backed calls for higher prices and urged fellow members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries yesterday to abide by Opec's output quotas as the best way to boost oil revenues.

Strategy talks got under way to set production levels for July through September. Hisham Nazer, the Saudi oil minister, said he was not satisfied with weak oil prices that are languishing \$3 a barrel below Opec's \$21 a barrel target. "They should be better," Mr Nazer said, linking low prices to the Opec members' lax discipline in living up to their allocated pumping quotas.

Analysts estimate Opec produced about 600,000 barrels per day (bpd) more in May than the 23.6 million bpd ceiling it assigned itself for the second quarter, helping to keep prices under pressure in an amply supplied market.

"We are going to insist on strict (quota) adherence," Mr Nazer said, although he declined to say what new production ceiling he would like to see the group agree upon. Pricing hawks, such as Iran, Libya and Algeria, have been pushing for the group to keep their production ceiling unchanged at 23.6 million even though demand for Opec oil is expected to rise slightly in the third quarter.

Gholamreza Azgadhah, Iran's oil minister, said: "All I can say is demand is not very high and we need to be careful about the (third) quarter, so it is better if anyone has anything to say or wants more, to talk in the fourth quarter."

This was a direct reference to Kuwait, which wants a quota increase starting in July as Opec promised the emirate in February. It made the pledge to lure Kuwait back into the quota system, from which it was excused in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

All Ahmed al-Baghlil, the Kuwait oil minister, said he was ready to discuss the emirate's position. "We are always flexible and we shall remain

flexible," he said. But he added: "We are expecting the best from this meeting." Sources close to Kuwait's delegation in Geneva said the demand for a bigger quota remained on the table.

Nigeria also pressed for special treatment in boosting its quota, pointing out its economy was in dire straits.



Nazer: strict on quotas

"We will be looking for at least 100,000 bpd more," said Philip Asodu, the Nigerian oil minister. Nigeria's current quota is nearly 1.3 million bpd. "I believe we will emerge with a satisfactory conclusion," he added.

Allirio Parra, the outgoing Opec president, called in a keynote speech for a ceiling that would provide for "a reasonable recovery" in prices. He chided the group for busting their quotas, saying Opec was plagued by members ignoring their own decisions. "In order to capture Opec's credibility, we must continue to make strong efforts in the direction of compliance," he said.

Jean Ping, the Gabonese oil minister, has succeeded Mr Parra as the oil cartel's president. Mr Ping became his country's oil minister in 1990 and arrived in Opec with a background in international diplomacy after being president of the Unesco African Group in the 1980s.

National Grid to shed further 800 jobs

EIGHT hundred more jobs are to be shed over the next three years by National Grid Company, as cost-cutting accelerates to take account of a tougher price-cap regime. The new outbacks will come after GridCo shed 600 workers in the year to March, helping pre-tax profits increase by a further 300 jobs are likely to be lost in the current year, taking the total to 5,000 by March, with a target of 4,500 around the middle of the decade.

The manpower reductions coincide with rising investment to cope with growing pressure on the grid's north-south links as new gas-fired power stations come on stream in the northern part of the country. Investment reached £388 million last year, also up 7.1 per cent. Even so, GridCo's shareholders, the 12 regional electricity companies in England and Wales, will share a dividend of £129 million for the year, up 10.5 per cent.

S&U sees improvement

SHARES in S&U, the consumer credit house and hosiery maker, advanced 13p to 267p after Derek Coombs, chairman, sounded an upbeat note on prospects at the group's annual meeting in Birmingham yesterday. "We have noticed a clear improving trend over the past two months, and while the first half will be broadly similar to the first half of last year, it does look now as if the second half should show quite a substantial increase on last year's second half and that must be encouraging," Mr Coombs said.

Xerox-Microsoft link

XEROX and Microsoft have unveiled a broad strategic partnership to integrate personal computers and document products such as digital copier machines. The companies intend to deliver a new generation of integrated document products and PC software solutions, and are collaborating on related business initiatives to be announced later. They will work together to define and develop software products that streamline the process of creating, producing and distributing documents.

Company rents ruling

COMPANIES that have vacated leased property and are due to pay a rent higher than present market rents will have to take a charge against profits to account for the negative value of their lease under a draft ruling from the Accounting Standards Board's urgent issues task force. The ruling, likely to be confirmed in a month, would prevent companies from merely taking an annual charge and hoping the property market improved. It applies where a company has left a property and cannot let it or can only let it at a lower rent.

Sims gives a warning

SHARES in Sims Food Group, the meat and poultry processor and supplier, fell 53p to 129p after it gave a warning of lower profits and a reduced dividend. Sims, which is being reorganised, said that a combination of new EC regulations, substantial slaughtering over-capacity and the recession had taken their toll. Sims expects pre-tax profits for the year to end-March to decline to about £5 million, compared with £9.31 million last year. The final dividend will be cut to 4.5p (8.25p), giving a reduced total of 7.5p (11.25p) for the year.

De La Rue disposal

DE LA RUE is selling its Brazilian security printing company to the United States Banknote Company for \$45 million. At least \$38 million will be paid in cash and the balance in USBC shares. De La Rue is also selling back to USBC its 20 per cent holding in American Bank Note Holographics, USBC's subsidiary. In turn, it is buying back the 20 per cent of De La Rue Holographics held by USBC. The result of these transactions is a net payment to De La Rue of \$15 million.

Southend to cut payout

SHARES in Southend Property Holdings fell 15 per cent to 70p yesterday on news that the company intends to cut next year's dividend payout by 44 per cent to 2.4p to stem a £1.5 million outflow of irrecoverable ACT. In December, Southend increased the interim dividend from 1.45p to 1.52p. Malcolm Dagul, chairman, said a fall in profits after the sale of trading subsidiary Hamlet International left Southend with substantial ACT due to earnings from Australian mining interests.

Marston profits cheer

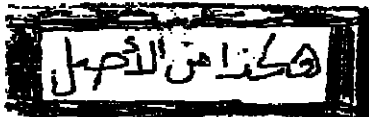
THE fight between the big brewers for market share has made earning a profit from a pub probably as difficult as it has ever been, claims Marston, Thompson & Evershed, the Burton upon Trent brewer. Despite this, pre-tax profits from Marston for the year to March 27 rose from £15.1 million to £20.1 million. A final dividend of 3.95p increases the year's total to 5.4p from 4.91p. Brewing volumes grew by almost 40 per cent but sales at the group's trading division fell by 12 per cent.

Our Pricing Information Service gives you details of main price changes before they are sent out with your next bill.

To register for this free service simply call 0800 800 891, leave your details and we'll do the rest. (Main price changes include call charges and line rentals.) CALL FREE ON 0800 800 891.



You're more than just a number



THE TIMES

ACCOUNTANCY AND FINANCE

APPEARS IN THE BUSINESS NEWS PAGES EVERY THURSDAY TO ADVERTISE PHONE

DAVID GERMAN 071-481 1066

or FAX 071-782 7828 071-481 9313

THE Carpetright

SHARE OFFER

To register for a prospectus call

FREEPHONE 0500 500 290

CARPETRIGHT plc

This is not an invitation to apply for shares. Applications should only be made on the basis of the prospectus. If you need advice, you should consult a professional adviser. This advertisement has been approved by County NatWest Limited, a member of the Securities and Futures Authority Limited.

Vodafone taps into communications in South Africa

By COLIN CAMPBELL

VODAFONE Group, the mobile communications group, yesterday identified South Africa, where it is to be a 35 per cent shareholder in a new joint venture, as the next target in its global expansion plans.

Gerry Whent, chief executive, said the group had maintained its 56 per cent share of the British cellular market. By the end of March, more than 838,000 subscribers had been connected to the Vodafone service, an increase of 125,000 on the year.

Mr Whent added: "If the current rate of subscriber growth continues, the one millionth subscriber will be connected before the end of the financial year." The group

■ Vodafone profits rose to £322 million as the company looked forward to its one millionth subscriber by the end of the financial year next March

made pre-tax profits of £322.5 million (£271.8 million) in the year to end-March, and a total dividend for the year of 6.96p (5.8p) a share.

Vodafone shares fell 14½p to 351p, but analysts said the setback was due to profit-taking after a strong rise before the results rather than to disappointment with the figures.

Mr Whent said the improvement in attracting new subscribers had been helped, in part, by the introduction last October of an alternative tariff called "LowCall" which offered reduced line rental costs with higher call charges.

Other businesses in the Vodafone group also made progress. Last August, the group became a 45 per cent shareholder in a consortium that had been awarded a licence to operate a mobile telephone service in Greece. In December, it was awarded a licence in Australia, while entry into the German market followed in February.

The venture in South Africa will be with Telkom of South Africa (50 per cent) and Rembrandt Group (15 per cent). A formal application for one of

two new cellular licences will be submitted by the end of June. If approval is granted by the end of August, the joint venture company hopes to open its network for commercial service by mid-1994.

Vodafone generated £77 million of cash and ended its March financial year with £152 million of cash and liquid investments, net of overdrafts and borrowings.

Capital expenditure in the last financial year totalled £139 million, including £34 million spent overseas. This year's capital expenditure is expected to be £300 million, of which £170 million would be in Britain. The group is confident that it can fund its planned expenditure from internal resources.

Mr Whent, in response to remarks concerning the recent association between BT of Britain and MCI of America, said Vodafone had not been in any talks nor had it been approached by any leading telephone group in America. But if one offered "north of £7 a share" then "we might have to go", he quipped.

Tempus, page 27



Cheers: Michael Cannon, JA Devenish chairman, left, and chief executive John Clark are drinking to a long hot summer in the West Country

Cornish pubs mar Devenish performance

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

A POOR performance from its core public houses operation in Cornwall marred interim figures from JA Devenish, the West Country group, that showed pre-tax profits in the six months to end-March 18 per cent up at £4.64 million.

Operating profits from the 150 Cornish public houses Devenish runs fell £200,000, by some City estimates, to £1.4 million, during what was a

difficult first half. The company is pinning its hopes on a hot summer that will inflame thirst among visiting tourists. "Indications from the local tourist board are that bookings for this summer season are running at a higher level than last year," said Michael Cannon, chairman. Shareholders are rewarded with an interim dividend up from 1.5p to 1.625p.

Devenish has finished the corporate refocusing programme that has seen the group leave its brewing business

with the agreed sale of its last 30 per cent in Freetraders Group, Britain's second-biggest independent wholesaler to the free on-licensed drinks trade. Devenish held 30 per cent and Swiss Bank Corporation 20 per cent after a 1990 management buy-in. Matthew Clark, the drinks distributor, has agreed to buy 74.9 per cent of Freetraders for £12.8 million plus the repayment of £5.8 million of debt. The management has agreed to sell the balance of the shares to Clark for a

maximum of £16 million based on future profits. Clark is part-funding the purchase with a £12.9 million four-for-nine rights issue at 320p, while reporting pre-tax profits ahead from £4.55 million to £5.28 million in the year to end-April. A final dividend of 10p makes a total ahead from 15.75p to 16.75p. The shares, after an earlier decline, ended unchanged at 405p.

Tempus, page 27

Goldman insider banned for 3 years

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

ROBERT FREEMAN, the former Goldman Sachs partner who was arrested at the firm's New York office six years ago, has paid \$1.1 million in civil fines and penalties and will stay out of the securities industry for three years for one count of insider trading.

The Securities and Exchange Commission settlement of the civil case against him comes after years of investigation that failed to turn up any charges other than the one Mr Freeman admitted during a 1989 criminal trial for the same incident. For that, he was fined \$1 million and served four months in prison.

It had been thought that Mr Freeman, head of Goldman's arbitrage operations in the takeover years of the booming eighties, had committed 20 other securities-related crimes. Mr Freeman limited the losses for himself, his family, Goldman Sachs and a customer of the bank by selling shares in Beatrice, the food group, after he was told that the 1986 takeover by KKR, the buyout specialist, would be renegotiated at a lower price.

Before he sold, Mr Freeman had committed \$66 million of Goldman Sachs funds and about 40 per cent of his family holdings to Beatrice shares and options. Prosecutors estimated he saved himself and Goldman about \$930,000.

The tip-off came from Martin Siegel, former Kidder Peabody investment banker, who has admitted selling information to Ivan Boesky, the convicted insider dealer.

The sentencing is seen as a vindication of Goldman's often criticised support for Mr Freeman, who did not resign from the firm until two years after his arrest.

Goldman said the SEC case did not go beyond the same "narrow facts that resulted in Bob's [Mr Freeman's] earlier plea". No action is to be taken against the investment bank.

The SEC has widened its investigations of alleged violations of client accounts at the American company Prudential Securities. It is examining whether the firm improperly withheld incriminating documents.

In a separate case, Ken Anderson, 32, a former share trader for Fidelity Investments, was sentenced to five months in prison and fined \$115,185 after admitting 56 charges of securities fraud.

Unigate advance is first in three years

By SARAH BAGNALL

SHARES in Unigate, the dairy, food processing and distribution company, rose strongly as investors took confidence from a 0.8p increase in the final dividend, the first rise for three years.

The final dividend of 10.4p takes the total for the year to end-March to 16.1p, up 5.2 per cent. Ross Buckland, chief executive, said the dividend was raised "as a signal of our confidence" and reflected the increase in earnings.

Pre-tax profits under FRS3 rose from £65.7 million to £101.4 million, near the top of analysts' expectations. However, the underlying performance showed only a slight improvement with pre-tax profits, adjusted for exceptional disposal losses, rising £5.9 million to £97.9 million.

Profits also benefited from a £4 million pension credit, which Mr Buckland said in

future years is expected to be £3 million. Unigate opted not to distribute all the increase in earnings to shareholders and as a result the dividend cover has risen to 1.9 times.

Operating profits at the core dairy business rose 5.9 per cent to £30.4 million, despite a £22 million fall in turnover to £363 million on the back of a fall in the volume of milk sales.

At the year-end gearing stood at 29 per cent, but recent acquisitions have pushed the level up to 60 per cent. One means of reducing gearing is the planned flotation of the US restaurants business, which increased profits by £1 million to £14.3 million. In May the group put the flotation on hold. Mr Buckland said: "We will look at the situation again in twelve months' time."

Tempus, page 27

Great Portland joins the cash call queue

By CARL MORTISHED

GREAT Portland Estates joined the property rights issue queue yesterday with a £95 million cash call to raise funds for acquisitions. Talks are under way on two deals valued at some £70 million.

Shareholders will receive a maintained dividend of 10p a share for the year to March 31 but, in line with warnings given last year, the company intends to cut next year's payout to 8p. Richard Peskin, chairman, said Great Portland believed in a high rate of payment, but the dividend needed to be supported by earnings from core activities.

Shareholders are being offered 65 million new shares on a one-for-four basis at 150p

and Mr Peskin said the money would be used to buy retail property outside London.

Profit before tax rose 68 per cent to £34 million during the year but the figures, adjusted for the new FRS3 reporting standard, include a £0.6 million profit on the sale of investment properties while the 1992 result has taken the £14 million loss on the sale of its investment in Bride Hall above the line.

Rental income rose 19 per cent to £84 million and earnings per share from 4.8p to 11.7p. The portfolio was valued at £823 million.

Tempus, page 27

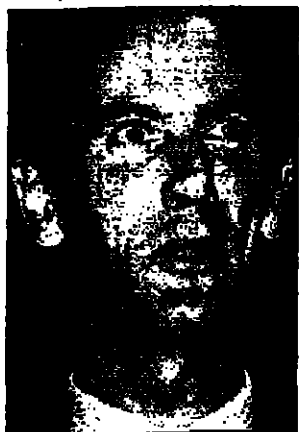
Nationwide bad debts rise 40%

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

AN INCREASE in bad debt provisions of 40 per cent to £329 million and exceptional restructuring costs of £53 million caused Nationwide Building Society to report an 8.6 per cent fall in annual pre-tax profits to £184.6 million.

The restructuring costs include 650 redundancies and closure of 60 estate agency branches. This included the writing off of £9.7 million of goodwill and £17 million for losses on estate agency premises and maintaining those that have been closed but have not yet been sold. The estate agency made a loss of £15 million in the year to April 5.

Tim Melville-Ross, chief executive of the second largest society, said it was still committed to its estate agency chain, which cost £120 million. "We are reasonably confi-



Melville-Ross: committed

dent that given the first signs of recovery in the market we should be in a position where estate agency will be making a visible contribution."

During the year the society's share of the mortgage market fell despite a £180 million rise in lending to housing associa-

tions during the year, largely as a result of the £750 million of extra funding provided in the Autumn Statement. The number of repossessions was just below 6,000 against just above 6,000 last year. A large proportion were abandoned properties.

Mr Melville-Ross does not expect a dramatic improvement in repossessions during this year, but he is no longer looking for help for the housing market from the government. "On balance I would say enough has been done to move the market modestly."

The society's operating profit was up 29 per cent at £566.5 million compared with £437.8 million in 1991-92. Management expenses fell and, for the fifth year in succession, the group's cost to income ratio fell, from 55.2 per cent to 52.8 per cent.

Assets rose by 2.6 per cent to £35 billion.

Experience Forte Crest Business Class and get all the benefits of Club.

As a business guest at Forte Crest, we know you'll enjoy our high standards of comfort and service. Because those standards are covered by our unique Satisfaction

Guarantee. You can also enjoy Forte Crest Club. A Club that



rewards your business stays with free weekends to relax with your family. To join Forte Crest Club now, call 0225 790 353. To make a reservation

call 0800 40 40 40, or contact your travel agent.

In a business class of its own

**FORTE
CREST**

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

VW said yesterday: "Britain has become a significant player in car component manufacturing as a result of several major companies setting up new car plants, particularly from Japan." This exposure to the latest quality, production, delivery and working practices

By PHILIP PANGALOS

Capital expenditure rose from £16.8 million to £21.1 million, and it is likely to climb to £30 million in the current

forced some price cuts and led to margin erosion. However, Gordon Senior, finance director, was cautiously optimistic about prospects.

STOCK MARKET



Evans: shares boos

Securities, its rival, was also thought to be recommending the shares yesterday.

an early 3p fall and during the day to close 24p higher at 744p. At 742p for stock just before the start of a flurry in the share price around 1.30pm, several market-makers are now squeezing.

The bid alarms have started ringing again at Devenish as the West Country pubs group Devenish saw first-half pre-tax profits climb 17.6 per cent to £4.6 million but gave a warn-

ing that trading in its Cornish pubs remained difficult. The speculators believe that this may provide the key for Boddington to launch another bid for Devenish. It continues to hold 20 per cent of the shares after its abortive offer.

PowerGen fired another 1½p to 369½p in response to this week's better than expected figures, while National Power hardened 3p to 356½p after announcing the closure of its Thorpe Marsh power station in south Yorkshire with the loss of 200 jobs.

MICHAEL CLARK

By CARL MORTISHED

Anglian's process engineer- worth of growth in the core

Increased efficiency reduced costs by £4 million enabling Anglian to increase charges to its 5.8 million customers by 0.5 per cent less than the

Mr Smith said that Anglian suffered a rise in the bad debt provision from £3.4 million to £8.4 million due to the recession.

Earnings per share rose 9 per cent to 56.4p and the full-year dividend is increased from 19.3p to 21.1p.

RECENT ISSUES

Break for the Border (48)	58	...
Bruntcliffe Aggregates (25)	33	...
China Inv Trust (100)	93	...

China Inv Trust (100)	50	...
China Inv Warrants	51	...
Division Group (40)	86	-5
Drew Scientific (105)	132	-2
Fleming Citruse C (100)	102	...
Franklin (100)	105	...

Inveresk (150)	165	-3
Irish Continental	160	...
OGC (130)	130	+2
Phonelink (155)	236	-14
Pilkington Warrants	35	+4

RJB Mining (250)	233	-1
------------------	-----	----

1993		Stock	Price £
High	Low		
SHORTS <i>Amidon E.</i>			

100%	100%	Treas 12 1/2% 1993	100%
100%	99%	Fixed 6% 1993	100
100%	102%	Treas 17 1/4% 1993	103 1/2
102%	101 1/2%	Treas 8 1/4% 1994	104 1/2
104%	106%	Treas 14 1/4% 1994	106 1/2
106%	106%	Fixed 13 1/4% 1994	106 1/2

104 th	105 th	Each 12 th 1994	104 th
105 th	104 th	Trans 10 th 1994	104 th
112 th	107 th	Each 12 th 1994	107 th
105 th	103 th	Trans 9 th 1994	104 th
111 th	108 th	Trans 12 th 1995	109 th
96 th	94	Gas, 3 rd 1990-95	95 th
109 th	107 th	Each 10 th 1995	107 th

116°	113°	Trends 12% 1995	114°
120°	117°	Trends 14% 1996	117°
125°	121°	Trends 15% 1998	121°
120°	116°	Earth 13% 1996	116°
111°	108°	Conv 10% 1995	109°
122°	118°	Trends 13% 1997	119°
125°	120°	Times 10% 1997	120°

113%	105%	Exch 10/28/1997	111%
108%	108%	Trans 8/14/1997	104%
112%	122%	Exch 12/6/1997	128%
112%	109%	Exch 9/1/1998	109%
103%	99%	Trans 7/26/1998	107%
101	97%	Trans 6/14/1998-98	98%

MEDIUMS (\$5 to \$15)			
138"	133"	Trans 1976-1998	174"
122"	118"	Each 12" 1998	114"
112"	108"	Trans 9-12 1993	109
124"	120"	Each 12" 1999	120"
117"	112"	Trans 10-12 1993	112"

117°	122°	Texas 10% 1999	118°
117°	117°	Conn 10% 1999	118°
110°	106	Conn 9% 2000	107
111	125°	Texas 13% 2000	120°
115°	109°	Texas 10% 2001	111°
139	125°	Texas 14% 2000-01	125°
114°	108°	Texas 7% 2001	110°

1994	40%	1995	40%
1996	40%	1997	40%

071-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

be paid in full. Below are the purely formal giving creditors notice of the liquidator's appointment should they have any claims they may have against the estate in full.

On 2 June 1993 the above named company was liquidated and Sir Richard Victor Verbruggen was appointed liquidator, 1 London Road, London SE1 1QJ, was appointed liquidator by the court.

The liquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.12A of the Companies Act 1985, that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of their claims to the liquidator. The company's creditors, to the liquidator at the above address, must submit their claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will treat as a final distribution to the creditors of the company who does not make a claim by the date mentioned.

The companies are asked to pay the liquidator's disbursements.

The companies are asked to pay Sir Richard Victor Verbruggen, Solicitor, 1 London Road, London SE1 1QJ, the costs of the liquidation.

NO. 232 OF 1995
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
LEADS DISTRICT REGISTRY
IN THE MATTER OF
TCS HOLDINGS LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that the Order of the High Court
of Justice, Chancery Division, dated
20th MAY 1995 confirming the
reduction of the capital of the
Company from £1,000,000 to £30,094,700 to £19,579 and the
convalidation of the above pre-
scribed steps of the Company and the
Minutes approved by the Court
shall be binding on the Company
and the several particulars
mentioned in the above-mentioned
Act were registered by the
Registrar of Companies on
20th MAY 1995.
Dated this 7th day of June 1995
Booth & Co of Solicitors
P O Box 9, South Parade,
Leeds LS1 1HQ

BE PAID FIRST
SERVICES LIMITED AND
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
JACQUES L. HERRERY, CLERK,
pursuant to Section 98 of the
Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting
of the Creditors of the above-
named Company will be held at
Trevell House,
110-112 High Road, Epsom,
on Monday the 21st June 1993, at
10.00 a.m. for the purpose of
the purposes mentioned in Sec-
tions 99, 100 and 101 of the said
Act.

A list of the names and
addresses of the Company's Cred-
itors will be available for inspec-
tion free of charge at the office of
the Clerk, at the above address,
from 1.00-2.00 High Road, Epsom. List
No. 1/93 between 10.00 a.m. and
12.00 p.m. on Thursday 17th
June 1993
Dated this 20th day
of May 1993

IN THE LONDON SOCIETY Debating
Chamber, Pemberton Building
Palace Green, East Ham
J.C.F. Hayward
Registrar and Secretary
AGN 974
Annual Report by
the Vice-Chancellor and
University Office:
Old Shiraz Hall Old Egham
Dorset DN1 3SP
9 June 1993

The 107th Annual General
Meeting of the Society's
and the Society's Annual
Meeting will be held in the
Room at Harrow School,
Harrow, Middlesex, on
2.00pm on Thursday 8th July
1993. The Royal Institution Prince
Secretary of Arms will preside.

**LEGAL, PUBLIC
& PARLIAMENTARY**

TO PLACE ALL YOUR
PLEASE CALL
TEL: 071- 871- 7744

[illegible]

to have absorbed w
demand investors v
to generate.

As a result, the r
bond market had
session, with prices
ing in narrow limits
of the time.

On the futures mar
September series of
gilt toned fin
E10347³² and E103³²
fore closing all-se
E10321³².

The cash market
patches of selective
especially at the low
where Treasury 9
2012 formed a couple

what little	100%	100%	100%
were able	111%	103%	100%
	100%	94	
rest of the	100%	107%	
a quiet	106%	113%	
fluctuat-	128%	128%	
for much	125%	121%	
	120%	116%	
arket, the	111%	108%	C
the long	120%	118%	C
ns of	110%	108%	C
square at	102%	108%	C
	112%	122%	E
enjoyed	111%	109%	E
support	109%	109%	E
nger end	112%	112%	C
per cent	110%	126	C
e of ticks	111%	123%	C
	114%	125%	C
	114%	103%	T

year 1994	85%
year 1995	87%
year 1996	89%
year 1997	90%
year 1998	92%
year 1999	93%
year 2000	94%
year 2001	95%
year 2002	96%
year 2003	97%
year 2004	98%
year 2005	99%
year 2006	100%
year 2007	101%
year 2008	102%
year 2009	103%
year 2010	104%
year 2011	105%
year 2012	106%
year 2013	107%
year 2014	108%
year 2015	109%
year 2016	110%
year 2017	111%
year 2018	112%
year 2019	113%
year 2020	114%
year 2021	115%
year 2022	116%
year 2023	117%
year 2024	118%
year 2025	119%
year 2026	120%
year 2027	121%
year 2028	122%
year 2029	123%
year 2030	124%
year 2031	125%
year 2032	126%
year 2033	127%
year 2034	128%
year 2035	129%
year 2036	130%
year 2037	131%
year 2038	132%
year 2039	133%
year 2040	134%
year 2041	135%
year 2042	136%
year 2043	137%
year 2044	138%
year 2045	139%
year 2046	140%
year 2047	141%
year 2048	142%
year 2049	143%
year 2050	144%
year 2051	145%
year 2052	146%
year 2053	147%
year 2054	148%
year 2055	149%
year 2056	150%
year 2057	151%
year 2058	152%
year 2059	153%
year 2060	154%
year 2061	155%
year 2062	156%
year 2063	157%
year 2064	158%
year 2065	159%
year 2066	160%
year 2067	161%
year 2068	162%
year 2069	163%
year 2070	164%
year 2071	165%
year 2072	166%
year 2073	167%
year 2074	168%
year 2075	169%
year 2076	170%
year 2077	171%
year 2078	172%
year 2079	173%
year 2080	174%
year 2081	175%
year 2082	176%
year 2083	177%
year 2084	178%
year 2085	179%
year 2086	180%
year 2087	181%
year 2088	182%
year 2089	183%
year 2090	184%
year 2091	185%
year 2092	186%
year 2093	187%
year 2094	188%
year 2095	189%
year 2096	190%
year 2097	191%
year 2098	192%
year 2099	193%
year 2100	194%
year 2101	195%
year 2102	196%
year 2103	197%
year 2104	198%
year 2105	199%
year 2106	200%
year 2107	201%
year 2108	202%
year 2109	203%
year 2110	204%
year 2111	205%
year 2112	206%
year 2113	207%
year 2114	208%
year 2115	209%
year 2116	210%
year 2117	211%
year 2118	212%
year 2119	213%
year 2120	214%
year 2121	215%
year 2122	216%
year 2123	217%
year 2124	218%
year 2125	219%
year 2126	220%
year 2127	221%
year 2128	222%
year 2129	223%
year 2130	224%
year 2131	225%
year 2132	226%
year 2133	227%
year 2134	228%
year 2135	229%
year 2136	230%
year 2137	231%
year 2138	232%
year 2139	233%
year 2140	234%
year 2141	235%
year 2142	236%
year 2143	237%
year 2144	238%
year 2145	239%
year 2146	240%
year 2147	241%
year 2148	242%
year 2149	243%
year 2150	244%
year 2151	245%
year 2152	246%
year 2153	247%
year 2154	248%
year 2155	249%
year 2156	250%
year 2157	251%
year 2158	252%
year 2159	253%
year 2160	254%
year 2161	255%
year 2162	256%
year 2163	257%
year 2164	258%</

[illegible]

UNDATED	
UNDATED 4%	66%
UNDATED 5%	45%
UNDATED 7%	84%
UNDATED 25%	30%
UNDATED 30%	38%

INDEX-LINKED	
UN 12/29/1994	134
UN 12/29/1995	160
UN 12/29/1996	165
UN 12/29/1997	169
UN 12/29/1998	161%
UN 12/29/1999	169%
UN 12/29/2000	185%
UN 12/29/2001	158%
UN 12/29/2002	139%
UN 12/29/2003	137%
UN 12/29/2004	132%

556	8.39
557	8.41
558	8.51
559	8.52
560	8.24
561	8.39
562	8.18
563	8.56
564	...
565	...
566	...
567	...
568	...
569	...
570	...
571	1.59
572	2.84
573	3.01
574	3.03
575	3.28
576	3.46
577	3.61
578	3.63
579	3.37
580	3.41
581	3.38
582	3.56
583	3.49
584	3.66

100



AN OPEN LETTER FROM GEORGE SOROS

Down with the mark: Soros now targets the Bundesbank

On May 20, Anatole Kaletsky wrote an open letter to George Soros, the celebrated financial speculator, urging him to save Europe from federalism by attacking the French franc. Now Mr Soros replies

Dear Mr Kaletsky. Your open letter deserves an answer. I agree with some of your argument, but

heartily disagree with your conclusions. It is not the French currency and French bonds that need to be sold, but the German ones.

I expect the mark to fall against all major currencies, including even sterling. I also expect German bonds to fall vis-à-vis French ones in the months to come, although German bond prices should rise in absolute terms when the Bundesbank reverses course and sharply reduces short-term interest rates (for the sake of full disclosure, I am talking my book).

France is gaining in competitiveness against Germany. It has a significantly lower inflation rate and its industry has been more adept at adjusting its cost structure than German counterparts. The Bundesbank has kept interest rates too high, too long. It could have lowered short-term rates gradually without endangering its reputation, but it missed the boat. Germany is now in a worse recession than France, and has a large and growing budget deficit.

Eventually, short-term interest rates will have to be lowered, whether the Bundesbank likes it or not. The longer it waits, the larger the reduction that will be necessary. The Bundesbank could have minimised the effect on the yield curve and the exchange rate had it moved earlier and more deliberately; it could have led the market instead of resisting it. But now it is too late: the markets have begun to discount the inevitable and eventually the Bundesbank will capitulate. I do not expect the Bundesbank to alter its stance as long as Helmut Schlesinger is at its helm, but his retirement is only a few months away.

The French might have escaped the brunt of the recession had they broken the bond with the mark after German reunification, but they would be foolish to do so now. They have lower inflation than Germany and a large savings surplus; they will end up with substantially lower long-term rates than Germany.

You are right in emphasising that France is more vulnerable than Germany to devaluations elsewhere in Europe, due to the composition of its foreign trade. It also suffers higher unemployment, partly because its industry has adjusted to the recession better. But these considerations only show there are fundamental flaws in the present exchange-rate mechanism.



Soros: "I am no more infallible than the central banks"

While we agree on this point, I disagree with your argument against monetary union. In my view, all exchange rate systems are flawed. They are like matrimony: whatever state prevails, it leaves something to be desired, which can only be found in its opposite. In the case of the ERM, the flaw is that the Bundesbank sets monetary policy for all its members. The system worked well until German unification, but then became unsustainable.

The deficiency in the ERM can be cured only by creating a European central bank in which all members have equal voting rights, as envisaged in the Maastricht treaty. In my opinion, freely floating exchange rates would destroy the Common Market because floating exchange rates are cumulatively destabilising. The more they fluctuate, the greater the relative importance of speculation. Speculation tends to be trend-following and the excesses it produces can be self-validating, as I argued in my book *The Alchemy of Finance*. Since all ex-

change rate systems are flawed, it is best not to have one at all, but to have a common currency. The fact that it would put speculators like me out of business is one of its merits.

To argue that a monetary union must lead to Europe's evolution into a federal state is a non sequitur. In the US, the federal budget accounts for 20 per cent of GNP, in the European Community for 2 per cent. Monetary union need not change this ratio. Admittedly, there are people, Jacques Delors foremost among them, who would like to see the European Community become more like the French state, but this tendency has met strong resistance not only in Britain but also in other countries.

Neither is there a logical connection between the growth of bureaucracy and the delegation of certain powers to the EC. What makes Brussels so bureaucratic and inefficient is the need to obtain the consent of every member state to every move. Brussels raises bureaucratic delay and indecision by the power of 12. There is no danger

that centralised administration would become as intrusive as the member states are at present, because people are much more allergic to Brussels than to their own governments. I am a devotee of the concept of open society, based on the principle that nobody has a monopoly on truth. Such a society requires a democratic system of government, a market economy and, above all, respect for minorities and minority opinions. As a consequence, I find the European Community the most attractive form of political organisation ever devised. It is an organisation in which every member state is in the minority (although the reunification of Germany and the domineering behaviour of the Bundesbank have disturbed the delicate balance that prevailed previously). This ensures that minority rights will be respected and only the necessary powers delegated to the centre.

The Maastricht treaty was a hasty, imperfect attempt to strengthen the EC after the collapse of the Soviet empire. Events since then have shown that such strengthening was desperately needed. The flaw in the ERM, namely the dominant role of the Bundesbank, has confirmed that a European monetary policy is needed. The debate in Yugoslavia has clearly demonstrated that a more coherent European foreign and security policy is also required. If the disintegration of the Soviet empire is matched by EC disintegration, the outlook for Europe is dismal indeed.

The end of the Cold War has reawakened problems that were never properly settled and plunged Europe into two world wars. National self-determination is a false solution, and the terrible consequences of the post-1918 settlement continue to fester. After the second world war the countries of Western Europe were willing to sacrifice some of their sovereignty to resist the Soviet threat. If they reverse direction now, a period of bloody conflicts on the territory of the former Soviet empire and beyond can be confidently predicted. That is the real message of Bosnia. The principle of unrestricted sovereignty cannot be reconciled with the principle of an open society. If the people of Western Europe have not learnt this lesson, what can we expect in the East?

Finally, I want to clarify my own role. In your letter you mentioned in one breath my activities in the currency markets and in Eastern Europe. There is a sharp distinction. In Eastern Europe I seek to promote open societies. In the financial markets, I am pursuing profit for my shareholders and myself. My success in the financial markets enables me to finance my foundations in Eastern Europe. I do not seek profits in Eastern Europe and I do not act as a philanthropic institution in the financial markets. I try to avoid speculative activities that could prove wantonly destructive, but I see no reason to abstain from moves that would happen even without my participation. Of course, in making such judgments, I am no more infallible than the central banks.

GEORGE SOROS

Limited shelf space

THE strong rise in Unigate's share price since October is as much a reflection of its credentials as a potential bid candidate as its success in refocusing the group.

Unigate has made six acquisitions — and several disposals — in the past year to strengthen its position in its core dairy and fresh foods businesses. Yet it still remains only a medium-sized player in food manufacturing compared to the likes of Cadbury-Schweppes and UB, and is completely dwarfed by the biggest multinational food companies such as Nestlé, Unilever, PepsiCo, BSN and Philip Morris.

This is an awkward place for Unigate to be. Even if it escapes the clutches of a predator, it could find itself at a disadvantage against bigger and more powerful competitors. The increasing dominance of the biggest super-

market groups in British food retailing has shifted the balance of power sharply away from the manufacturers in recent years. In the UK, Germany and France the top two supermarket groups account for over 20 per cent of the market. Moreover, the growth of own-label products has reduced the shelf space available for branded goods.

Food companies have sought to redress this imbalance through acquisition. Nestlé, Unilever, BSN and Philip Morris have all followed this strategy on an international level. But the same process has been happening on a national scale, as companies have sought to build brand leadership in specific product areas. As the top players extend their activities into new areas, such sectors are increasingly hard to find. On its own, Unigate could face a difficult future.

Vodafone

AS IF to prove the point that the business of talking on telephones is alive and well, and bringing in handsome profits, mobile telephones just kept on chirping during yesterday's Vodafone Group presentation. But their interruption did nothing to dent the group's enthusiasm about its vision for the rest of this century.

Pre-tax profits of £322.5 million (£271.8 million) in the year ended March and a 20 per cent rise in the dividend to a total 6.96p a share matched market expectations but led to some healthy profit-taking. The shares fell 14½p to 45½p.

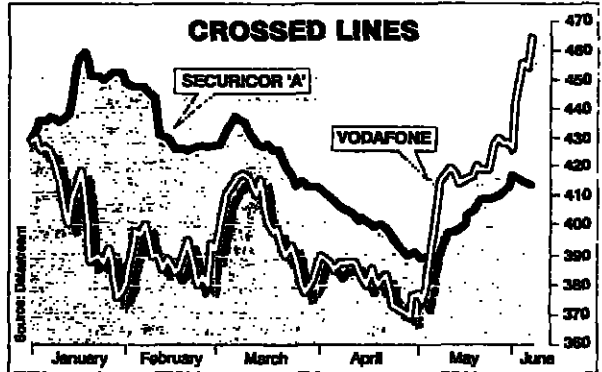
Vodafone was demerged from Racal Electronics in September, 1991, but has already recorded strong profit leaps for each of the reporting periods since. It

also remains a strong generator of cash — £77 million in the year ended March — and looks likely to remain a healthy cash spinner for some years ahead, despite a continued high level of capital expenditure.

South Africa was identified yesterday as one new market in sight, to complement ten other world joint ventures.

When Vodafone runs out of new world opportunities, the game plan is to use cash to move from minority to majority positions in several of its investments.

Vodafone has yet to be courted by a leading American group, but the day may not be far off. Yesterday's share price setback should prove to be temporary.



Great Portland

THE property investment bandwagon shows no signs of slowing. Over £1 billion has been pumped into property shares over the past two months, much of it earmarked for investment in bricks and mortar, and recent institutional allocations put property investment at the top of the agenda. But investors who can cast their minds back will remember a time, not much more than a year ago, when property was the Cinderella sector and virtually no one, barring the odd aggressively contrarian individual, was investing in real estate.

The change in sentiment is based on two elements: a fall in the long-term cost of borrowing, which makes property investment at yields of 10 per cent attractive, and a perception that those yields are falling on certain prime assets, pushing up their value. However, the real engine of growth in the sector remains rents. Investment Property Databank's statistics record that rents in all sectors of the property market are still on a downward trend

and in private, many heads of property companies doubt that the current euphoria will last.

Great Portland's issue will attract support, despite the cut in dividend, the yield on the rights shares is an attractive 6.6 per cent. But investors should not expect the new money to show quick returns. Those companies with time on their side may pick up better bargains.

like sales growth of 20 per cent, spurred by new aggressive promotional campaigns. Although the promotions continue, they do not provide the same incremental benefit, and consequently like-for-like sales growth this year is running at only 6 per cent.

If the hoped-for revival in consumer spending on durables fails to materialise, the shares would look extremely vulnerable.

Carpentry

CARPENTRY may offer its customers bargain prices, but it has been far less generous to potential shareholders with the pricing of its flotation. At 148p, this is more akin to an after-market price.

Although the company has an excellent record — it virtually tripled pre-tax profit for the year to end April 1993 — a p/e ratio of 21.8 times is steep. On forecast pre-tax profit of £10.5 million, the prospective p/e exceeds 16 times, still very full for a company of its size and age.

Its recent results have also set the company a tough benchmark for comparison. Last year it achieved like-for-

Devenish

DEVENISH, less than a year into a nerve-racking wait to see if Boddington will re-bid on the back of its 20 per cent hostile stake, has had to put out a set of interim figures that an ungenerous soul might characterise as a profit warning, given the continuing flat brew being served up by Carlsberg pubs.

Boddington would love to re-bid but is hamstrung by the fear that, after the amazing escape of the tiny Morland brewery last summer, beer-related companies may effectively be beyond the reach of free market discipline. It is hard to say which is running more scared.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Tennis elbow

BRITISH Coal chairman Neil Clarke seemed so prepared for a mauling at yesterday's Union of Democratic Mineworkers' annual conference that he turned up pre-bagged, his arm swathed in white gauze. But any fears he might have had of rough handling proved unfounded — despite a great deal of bitterness over pit closures among UDM members who crossed picket lines to work in the 1984-5 coal strike. "I can confirm that this injury is the result neither of having my fingers burnt nor my knuckles rapped," Clarke told the UDM, in a covert reference to the uneasy relationship with the government. His injury was sustained on the tennis court but that didn't stop him taking a swipe at the power generators who have proved reluctant to buy more coal. "I'm disappointed to have to admit that the cause is not even enthusiastic hand-shaking to celebrate signing additional sales contracts with National Power and PowerGen," he said. "If the experience of negotiating the core supply contracts with the generators is anything to go by, you need to check there are still fingers on your hand after shaking on a deal with them."

Editor's friend

RICHARD BRANSON's nous for obtaining free self-promotion, whether through his hair ballooning exploits or exposing British Airways' "dirty tricks", has more than paid off. British Airways may

spend millions of pounds on advertising but that has not stopped Virgin, which tends to rely more on journalists than admen, from emerging the "most-favoured" company in the business pages of all national daily and Sunday newspapers in the first quarter of this year. According to *Presswatch Quarterly*, Virgin achieved the top rating of 1,002 points, while British Airways became "the most disliked company" of the quarter with a negative rating of 3,653 points. BA's rating fell more than any other, dropping by 3,703 points in the quarter, an overall crash of 5,009 points in the estimation of City editors from September last year. Only Barclays Bank and British Rail came close to rivaling BA's woes in the press, with respective ratings of -2,481 and -1,304. Virgin accrued almost twice as many points as its closest *Presswatch* rival, Kingfisher, with 526 plaudits points. Perhaps if Sir Colin Marshall took up hang-gliding...



Branson: publicity king

Tokyo teaser

HUNDREDS of Japanese coins are piled into a mountain in Les Célèbres restaurant at the Nikko-owned Montcalm Hotel in London, and whoever gets closest to guessing their number and sterling value wins a trip for two to Japan. The contest, which begins today to celebrate the royal wedding between Masako Owada and Crown Prince Aya, is not easy as the sterling value will not be calculated until September 15, the last day, making entrants guess whether the yen will rise or fall.

Hands off

ENGLAND gets a second chance against Australia, but let's hope the captain of the City's Securities Institute cricket team keeps his hands off the ball on June 30 when the Australian Stock Exchange challenges it at the Financial Ashes tournament. Britain Michael Willis, 33, captains the Australians, by virtue of running the Australian desk at James Capel. The England captain is ex-Surrey cricketer Mike Hooper, 46. Most of the "away" team work for Australian brokers in London. The match is at the Honourable Artillery Company off Finsbury Square and will be followed by a dinner with David Lloyd, the former Lancashire and England player and Radio 5 commentator, and Geoff Lawson, the ex-New South Wales and Australia fast bowler, as speakers. The event is in aid of Tommy's Campaign and Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

Interest rates and the need for a ceiling on retail prices

From Mr Mark Brinkley
Sir, Anatole Kaletsky's *Ten Easy Pieces* for the new Chancellor (June 3) was, in precise, a plea to cut interest rates. Six of the ten suggestions alluded to this end: only once did he mention the negative effect that this course would have on savers generally — and the elderly in particular — and that in a somewhat flippant remark about the forthcoming Christchurch by-election.

Yes, at 6 per cent, base rates are lower than they have been for a generation. If people and businesses are reluctant to borrow at this level, they will probably be reluctant to borrow at any level. Lowering base rates to 4 per cent or less may well make no appreciable difference to borrower's confidence, yet it will undoubtedly be a disaster for savers and those living off capital.

Present government policy remains all too similar to where it stood five years ago: in particular the threat to raise interest rates remains, whether

to stop inflation or to defend the pound. No wonder recovery is sluggish! Continuing to cut interest rates now is like offering a double scotch to someone who still has a blinding hangover.

So far so bad. Yet there is a more positive remedy. Kenneth Clarke could set a ceiling for retail prices (say 30 or 40 per cent above current levels) and contract not to raise interest rates until that ceiling had been breached. The existing policy sets a target 1-4 per cent annual growth in retail prices, which many people feel could be exceeded by the end of this year without recovery having got out of the starting blocks. To raise interest rates in such a situation would be a travesty of common sense. If, on the other hand, the government could learn to overlook the fixation with the rate of inflation and concentrate, instead, on a specific future benchmark then a number of virtuous side effects would follow.

Firstly it creates a benign social contract. Borrowers, producers and wage negotiators would know that the low interest regime would be dependent on their actions. We would all bear responsibility if the benchmark was breached quickly (say within three years); conversely we would all have a vested interest in seeing that this did not happen.

Secondly, it provides a beacon by which people can arrange their affairs rather than repeating the devastating shambles which resulted from the sudden and unexpected hike in base rates, which occurred between 1988 and 1990.

It also might just capture the imagination of enough risk takers and give them enough confidence to spark up this longed for recovery. Yours sincerely, MARK BRINKLEY, The Bramblings, Mill Hill, Westcott Colville, Cambridge.

Syndicate-by-syndicate basis of Lloyd's results

From Mr Anthony D.R. Holland

Sir, Hopefully, it is a statistical aberration, but from eight sets of Lloyd's syndicate accounts received so far by my wife and myself out of the 92 expected, four expect similar results for 1991 in comparison with 1990, three expect worse results and only one expects better.

The 1990 loss is now widely expected to reach £2.8 billion, although forecast, at this time last year, to be an improvement on 1989, by the then chairman.

In April, the present chairman referred to a possible loss for 1991 in excess of £1 billion,

a figure which could mean anything.

I doubt the market practitioners would wish to comment on the above, as they must be very busy seeking corporate capital for 1994 and the time is short.

I only hope that those with corporate capital available will be studying the now compulsory forecasts on a syndicate-by-syndicate basis in order to align them with the 1991 prediction.

Yours faithfully, ANTHONY D.R. HOLLAND, Windlesham Manor, Windlesham, Surrey.

Standing still on pensions

From Mr Philip Roche
Sir, Philip Dimon's 0.7 per cent uprate (June 3) is not a record. I retired ten years ago and my pension has never been increased. Not all staff pensions go up with inflation. Yours faithfully, PHILIP ROCHE, 48 Castle Drive, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of *The Times* can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

the LONDON GRADUATE Recruitment FAIR



1993 THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES

14,344

That's how many motivated graduates visited the UK's largest all-graduate recruitment and information fair in 1992.

The University of London Careers Service invites your organisation to join the broad spectrum of recruiters already committed to the 1993 London Graduate Recruitment Fair.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JULY 6, 7 & 8 Business Design Centre Islington, London N1

The LGRF is sponsored by The Times and The Sunday Times. The Graduate Fair is preceded by the Schools' Fair on 30 June - 1/2 July. Together, the two events form - New Directions Week '93.

For further information on the LGRF, contact Fiona Maguire at ULCS, 50 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PG. Telephone: 071 383 2803. Graduates' phone 0800 252183 for further details.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

Equities mark time

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began June 7. Dealings end June 18. Settlement day June 21. Settlement day June 28. Forward payments are permitted on two previous business days. Prices reported are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Portfolio Plus

From your Portfolio Plus and check your share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. Send it to us with your card and we will claim it for you. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Share of last
1	Whitney Mkt	Paper/Pulp	1.00
2	TSB	Banking	1.00
3	Kalamazoo	Industrial	1.00
4	Church	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
5	Smith WH A	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
6	Vision	Industrial	1.00
7	Nu-Soft	Industrial	1.00
8	Owens Corning	Leisure	1.00
9	Sor & New	Chemicals	1.00
10	Cowie (T)	Metals	1.00
11	Kiron	Mining	1.00
12	Altrac	Industrial	1.00
13	VEEL	Industrial	1.00
14	RTZ	Mining	1.00
15	Rackitt Colm	Industrial	1.00
16	Sturges	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
17	Bullfinch	Mining	1.00
18	Central TV	Leisure	1.00
19	HK Land	Property	1.00
20	Grand Mer	Chemicals	1.00
21	McAlpine (A)	Building	1.00
22	Acme & Hurd	Building	1.00
23	Procter	Property	1.00
24	Courts Furnish	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
25	Blue Circle	Building	1.00
26	BOC	Industrial	1.00
27	Slim Water	Water	1.00
28	Amcor Br Pwr	Transport	1.00
29	Lloyds	Banking	1.00
30	Midland Elec	Electricity	1.00
31	Tesco	Retail	1.00
32	Lawson (U)	Building	1.00
33	LEAF Plc	Industrial	1.00
34	Breco	Industrial	1.00
35	Shannon Eng	Industrial	1.00
36	Central Mtr	Metals	1.00
37	CHL Miro	Industrial	1.00
38	Or Western Res	Oil/Gas	1.00
39	Gaming	Property	1.00
40	IMI	Industrial	1.00

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total

There were no valid winners of yesterday's Portfolio Plus prize. The £2,000 will be added to today's game.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
41	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
42	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
43	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
44	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
45	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
46	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
47	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
48	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
49	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
50	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1

BREWERIES

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
51	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
52	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
53	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
54	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
55	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
56	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
57	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
58	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
59	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
60	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1

BUILDING, ROADS

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
61	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
62	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
63	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
64	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
65	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
66	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
67	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
68	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
69	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
70	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1

Portfolio Plus

From your Portfolio Plus and check your share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. Send it to us with your card and we will claim it for you. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Share of last
1	Whitney Mkt	Paper/Pulp	1.00
2	TSB	Banking	1.00
3	Kalamazoo	Industrial	1.00
4	Church	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
5	Smith WH A	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
6	Vision	Industrial	1.00
7	Nu-Soft	Industrial	1.00
8	Owens Corning	Leisure	1.00
9	Sor & New	Chemicals	1.00
10	Cowie (T)	Metals	1.00
11	Kiron	Mining	1.00
12	Altrac	Industrial	1.00
13	VEEL	Industrial	1.00
14	RTZ	Mining	1.00
15	Rackitt Colm	Industrial	1.00
16	Sturges	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
17	Bullfinch	Mining	1.00
18	Central TV	Leisure	1.00
19	HK Land	Property	1.00
20	Grand Mer	Chemicals	1.00
21	McAlpine (A)	Building	1.00
22	Acme & Hurd	Building	1.00
23	Procter	Property	1.00
24	Courts Furnish	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
25	Blue Circle	Building	1.00
26	BOC	Industrial	1.00
27	Slim Water	Water	1.00
28	Amcor Br Pwr	Transport	1.00
29	Lloyds	Banking	1.00
30	Midland Elec	Electricity	1.00
31	Tesco	Retail	1.00
32	Lawson (U)	Building	1.00
33	LEAF Plc	Industrial	1.00
34	Breco	Industrial	1.00
35	Shannon Eng	Industrial	1.00
36	Central Mtr	Metals	1.00
37	CHL Miro	Industrial	1.00
38	Or Western Res	Oil/Gas	1.00
39	Gaming	Property	1.00
40	IMI	Industrial	1.00

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total

There were no valid winners of yesterday's Portfolio Plus prize. The £2,000 will be added to today's game.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
41	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
42	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
43	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
44	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
45	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
46	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
47	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
48	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
49	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
50	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1

BREWERIES

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
51	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
52	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
53	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
54	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
55	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
56	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
57	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
58	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
59	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
60	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1

BUILDING, ROADS

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
61	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
62	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
63	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
64	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
65	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
66	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
67	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
68	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
69	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
70	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1

Portfolio Plus

From your Portfolio Plus and check your share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. Send it to us with your card and we will claim it for you. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Share of last
1	Whitney Mkt	Paper/Pulp	1.00
2	TSB	Banking	1.00
3	Kalamazoo	Industrial	1.00
4	Church	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
5	Smith WH A	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
6	Vision	Industrial	1.00
7	Nu-Soft	Industrial	1.00
8	Owens Corning	Leisure	1.00
9	Sor & New	Chemicals	1.00
10	Cowie (T)	Metals	1.00
11	Kiron	Mining	1.00
12	Altrac	Industrial	1.00
13	VEEL	Industrial	1.00
14	RTZ	Mining	1.00
15	Rackitt Colm	Industrial	1.00
16	Sturges	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
17	Bullfinch	Mining	1.00
18	Central TV	Leisure	1.00
19	HK Land	Property	1.00
20	Grand Mer	Chemicals	1.00
21	McAlpine (A)	Building	1.00
22	Acme & Hurd	Building	1.00
23	Procter	Property	1.00
24	Courts Furnish	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
25	Blue Circle	Building	1.00
26	BOC	Industrial	1.00
27	Slim Water	Water	1.00
28	Amcor Br Pwr	Transport	1.00
29	Lloyds	Banking	1.00
30	Midland Elec	Electricity	1.00
31	Tesco	Retail	1.00
32	Lawson (U)	Building	1.00
33	LEAF Plc	Industrial	1.00
34	Breco	Industrial	1.00
35	Shannon Eng	Industrial	1.00
36	Central Mtr	Metals	1.00
37	CHL Miro	Industrial	1.00
38	Or Western Res	Oil/Gas	1.00
39	Gaming	Property	1.00
40	IMI	Industrial	1.00

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total

There were no valid winners of yesterday's Portfolio Plus prize. The £2,000 will be added to today's game.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
41	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
42	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
43	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
44	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
45	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
46	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
47	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
48	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
49	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
50	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1

BREWERIES

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
51	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
52	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
53	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
54	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
55	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
56	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
57	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
58	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
59	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1
60	36	35	Abey	35.5	1.5	3.4	16.1

BUILDING, ROADS

77	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
78	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
79	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
80	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
81	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
82	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
83	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
84	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
85	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
86	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
87	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
88	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
89	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
90	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
91	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
92	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
93	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
94	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
95	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
96	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
97	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
98	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
99	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5
100	City Centre	15	15	15	20.5	1.5	10.5

A touch of TV seasoning

Seasons are the current vogue for TV channels wishing to boost audiences, says Roger Graef

Some good news for couch potatoes and champions of quality television: the vogue for seasons and themed evenings is spreading, and bringing with it a way of lifting the schedules out of their routine and creating "television events".

This week sees the end of the BBC's first bi-media season — on BBC2 and Radio 4 — under the rubric *Crime and Punishment*. It has been a rich mix, conceived by Paul Hamann and supervised by Elizabeth Clough in the Documentary department but featuring two major mini-series focusing on one of Britain's most pressing social problems.

It has already had an effect: Don Taylor's drama-documentary about the Carl Bridgewater case persuaded the jury foreman that they had got the verdict wrong, and may yet lead to a Home Office review.

A still more surprising subject was spread across Channel 4's Easter fortnight. *Gimme Shelter* dealt with homelessness, hardly a topic likely to popularise viewers, yet the audience share for the second week of the season was C4's highest ever — 12.2 per cent.

Although several strong Hollywood films were included, C4's director of programmes, John Willis, said it showed that the channel's remit to offer fare not covered by other channels could be fulfilled on a major scale without haemorrhaging viewers.

This bodes well for filmmakers and audiences alike. It should encourage schedulers to take more risks, and challenge the received wisdom that familiar routines are the staple diet of a successful channel. As Alan Yentob, now controller of BBC1, and a long-time champion of theme nights and



Streetwise: Channel 4's *Gimme Shelter* season highlighted homelessness — and gained its highest audience share.

seasons, said: "You have to be much more careful with disrupting BBC1 and ITV, but viewers like surprises."

The success of themes and seasons shows how audiences' tastes have changed. First tried in the 1960s, when BBC2 came on air, they flopped. Fifteen years later, Mr Yentob tried again while editing BBC2's *Arena* series.

He offered such memorable themed evenings as *Blue Night* and *Vidéo Jukebox*. His *Mardi Gras* live look-up was more ambitious, though less successful.

Unlike its effect elsewhere in television, the BBC's competition with C4 has proved fruitful: Yentob's witty response to C4's successful re-runs in its *TV Heaven* compilation was an evening of the worst programmes ever made, titled *TV Hell*.

He even surprised professionals by showing a whole evening of work honouring the BBC's ITV rival Granada.

C4 and BBC2 also found themselves head-to-head with romantic seasons on Valentine's day — while the latter won the quality stakes hands

down, viewers still watched both. Seasons seem to offer an element of surprise that delights many more viewers than ringtones to complain that their favourite show has been shelved.

Jeremy Isaacs, when scheduling C4, broke most of the unwritten rules. Defying his critics, he began C4 with an

hour-long news at 7pm, rather than the usual soap — part of a menu of diverse goodies to be sampled according to taste. It took a while for viewers to "find" C4, but its audience reach — the number who tuned in at some point in the week — grew quickly.

The spread of remote control devices further promoted the habit of "zapping", hopping between channels — much to the dismay of adver-

tisers. C4's current use of seasons is a sophistication of the menu principle: it appeals to viewers to assign several dates with programmes on the same theme. Mr Willis's *Banned* season on C4 gave each of the controversial films a wider resonance than the row any one might have produced.

Viewers have always been more selective than many TV executives think. According to classic research by Professor Andrew Ehrenburg and Paddy Barwise, even when only three channels existed, the most popular series only kept half their audience each week. Now, with C4,

BSkyB and cable offering further buttons to push, Peter Salmon, C4's new head of factual programmes, expects series to keep no more than 5 per cent of their audience after one week and 3 per cent the next. He argues that seasons offer a "scatter-gun approach" that allows for this fragmentation. Fickle viewers are more likely to hit programmes dotted around a consistently themed season.

Fickle viewers are more likely to hit upon programmes dotted around a themed season

Low-key surprise at The Observer

The paper's new editor reveals his plans in his first interview

One week into his new job, Jonathan Fenby still seems uncertain about which of his rivals will be his main target in the hunt for new readers.

Charged with revitalising the country's oldest newspaper, he was widely expected to lead *The Observer* into a head-on attack against *The Independent* on Sunday with an armory of quality, revelatory news, business coverage, and comprehensive, well-crafted sports journalism.

Burying *The Independent* on Sunday, the argument goes, would exacerbate the problems of the daily *Independent*, thereby relieving pressure on *The Guardian*, and creating seven-day strength in the new *Observer/Guardian* stable.

Instead, Mr Fenby is setting his sights far wider, adopting more of a scatter-gun approach. "Everyone is competing against everyone else in the Sunday-paper market. I am not going into battle with anyone in particular. I want to establish *The Observer* on its own terms," he says.

"If we can establish a broad-enough appeal, I see no reason why middle-market readers looking for a newspaper should not move to us from *The Mail* on Sunday instead of going to *The Sunday Times*."

Mr Fenby enters his job with a solid track record. He joined Reuters news agency from New College, Oxford in 1963 and rose to become editor of Reuters world service in the 1970s. As *The Independent*'s first home editor, he is credited with creating the paper's fresh approach to news before moving to *The Guardian* as deputy editor.

The new-look *Observer* "on its own terms" will not swap its typeface for *The Guardian*'s. Nor will it abandon the use of colour. "If *The Guardian*'s presses

use this, Mr Fenby has cleared the front of the review section of book serialisations. Instead the space will be given over to long-running investigations or to discursive pieces or major issues of the week.

On the most sensitive question of all, Mr Fenby is noncommittal: "Yes, there will be fewer staff," he says. "It is a question of getting more out of our money and resources." But he does not intend to make changes until he has spoken to all employees. Nor will many journalists be brought in from *The Guardian*, he promises.

What is certain is that specialist correspondents will be expected to contribute stories from outside their brief.

Although, before the question is even asked, Mr Fenby says he is not obsessed by Andrew Neil [editor of *The Sunday Times*], he sounds as though he is. His main task over the next year, he says, is to stem *The Observer*'s circulation decline and leapfrog over *The Sunday Telegraph* — currently second in the quality Sunday-paper market — to become the number one contender to *The Sunday Times*.

He believes that the two papers have a significant overlapping readership and would dearly love a slice of the huge classified advertising cake which is one of *The Sunday Times*' strongest points.

Coverage of the royal family gives a further clue to his approach. "I will not have photographs of Princess Diana on every page of the paper, but we will write about the royals," Mr Fenby says. "Royal coverage tends to have a momentum all its own and to end up as a series of stories about stories. At that point you simply cannot ignore it."

Specialist journalists will be regularly freed from the weekly newsroom grind to mount major investigations with the aim of turning *The Observer* into the campaigning newspaper. To emphasise



Fenby: scatter-gun approach

HOW THEY STAND

Paper	Av sale Nov-Apr '93	% change from '92
Mail on Sunday	2,073,280	3.85
Sunday Express	1,711,821	3.02
Sunday Times	1,217,833	3.82
Sunday Telegraph	570,757	3.58
Observer	518,608	-5.03
Ind on Sunday	384,888	4.06

format review. It is unlikely, however, that the magazine will continue in its format with a costly binding and extra-thick paper. Specialist journalists will be regularly freed from the weekly newsroom grind to mount major investigations with the aim of turning *The Observer* into the campaigning newspaper. To emphasise

ALEXANDRA FREAN

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 071 481 1066

MEDIA, SALES & MARKETING

FAX:
071 481 9313

Management role – Telemarketing Dynamic Investment House Kent

Our client has established a premier position in the investment management industry as a result of their superior investment performance record, innovative product development and excellent standards of customer service. Due to internal promotion, an opportunity has arisen for a top quality telemarketing specialist to manage an inbound/outbound team of telephone representatives.

The team is involved with the promotion of investment products and services to the Independent Financial Adviser (IFA) marketplace. Your brief includes the management, training and motivation of a team of ambitious and talented individuals. You will be involved in giving input to the continued improvement of service

standards and maximising sales opportunities.

It is essential that you possess a thorough understanding of the investment market gained within a financial services environment coupled with strong management and training experience. Ideally you are already involved with selling to the IFA market and have an understanding of telemarketing systems and telephone technology.

Our client will offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits package commensurate with experience. To apply, in strict confidence, please write or telephone, quoting reference 930 to Fiona Law at FLA Ltd, 24 Rosemead Rd, London SW11 6AH. Tel: 071-738 9732.



GENERAL MANAGER Dyestuff Marketing

We are part of a large industrial group based in India with offices in Europe, USA and the Far East. We have a leading position in India as a manufacturer of dyestuffs, pigments and speciality intermediates.

Our products are being marketed in various European countries through distribution/dealer channels.

We are looking for a senior person to head our marketing operation from our London office, involving sales, market development and co-ordination of marketing channels.

The successful candidate will have a technical background, comprehensive knowledge of dyestuff/speciality chemical markets across Europe and experience in dealing with distribution channels. The person should also possess good administration skills and a willingness to travel.

We offer a stimulating work environment, competitive remuneration package of over £35,000 and the possibility to advance to a Board level position relatively quickly.

If you have the skills and experience we seek, please send your full CV as soon as possible to Box No: 2606

WANTED SALES MANAGER

Experience in Sales and knowledge in Indian Art, to run a gallery in London.

Contact Mr K. Natesan
at The Hilton on Park Lane, personally, on 2nd July.

071 493 8000.

MEDIA SALES EXECUTIVES

VARIOUS UK LOCATIONS

Many of you are aware of the advantages of self-employment. You now have the opportunity to commit your skills to an established market leader.

On offer: an open ended commission structure plus bonuses to high performers. Training is of the calibre you would expect from a prestigious organisation.

ED. J. BURROW & CO. LTD
Contact LESLEY WILSON
081-674 1222

Own car and telephone essential

Investor in People Programme

Candidates demonstrating success in other disciplines are invited to apply.

ODI MARKETING MANAGER

ODI is a fast growing Total Quality consulting and training company, with an exceptional opportunity for an experienced and versatile business to business marketing manager.

The successful candidate will demonstrate the marketing insight and sophistication needed to favourably position our products and services in a highly competitive market. A broad range of marketing management experience is required to:

- Identify and evaluate market and product opportunities
- Plan and implement marketing strategies
- Launch new products and services
- Analyse pricing and competitive data
- Work closely with our business development team.

A minimum three year track record of success in marketing is required. An MBA is preferred, and a background in Total Quality or Consultancy Services is desirable. We offer a competitive compensation package in return for the ability to help build our business in the UK. Qualified candidates should send their CV and salary history in confidence to:

Ms Emma Bradley, ODI
Apex Tower, 7 High Street
New Malden, London, KT3 4DQ.

PC TRAINING SALES

Are you an experienced salesperson currently selling PC software training solutions in the Commercial or Government sector?

OR

Are you a graduate calibre, articulate and enthusiastic with a desire to become a successful salesperson in a leading PC training company?

If you fit either of these profiles and wish to earn in excess of £25K call Neil Janssen NOW on 071 253 2253



Business Systems Training Ltd.

SALES EXECUTIVE

Who should be 25-35 years of age, who would not be satisfied with achieving less than £25K p.a. and would wish the opportunity to join our top performers earning around £30K p.a. Assignments for our executives involve working for selected Estate Agents and Health Centres throughout the U.K. for 2/3 weeks at a time, on behalf of a national group who are market leaders in their field and have for the past 20 years built a reputation for reliability and performance. The open ended commission structure incorporates a scheme for top achievers, has excellent bonus schemes and is available on an equal opportunity basis. Sales professionals of integrity and ability should ring

JANE LANEHAM ON 0253-788380

RESIDENTIAL NEGOTIATORS

We require highly motivated experienced sales and lettings negotiators for our Kensington and Parsons Green offices. Please contact Mr Curshill

071 602 3337

CHEF WANTED A nutrition, dietitian cook, with good experience, is wanted to work overseas. References are essential. For further information please phone 071 603 7983.

All Box number replies should be addressed to:

BOX No: —
C/o Times
Newspapers
P.O. BOX 484,
Virginia Street,
London E1 9DD

PIMS

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE IN CLIENT LIAISON DEPARTMENT

PIMS, a leading media services company, is looking for someone of graduate calibre, with work experience to join their busy press distribution client liaison department. Working with tough deadlines, you will have the ability to prioritise efficiently and co-ordinate a number of projects simultaneously. Excellent communication skills and a flexible approach are essential requirements.

Salary £12,000 p.a. + Performance Related Pay + Benefits.

Please send your C.V., quoting Ref. BD080, to the address below or call Dominic Clarke, Sales Manager on 071 226 1000.

Due to expansion, PIMS also requires a

MEDIA RESEARCHER

with fluency in one or more European languages, preferably Italian/French.

Full training will be given although an interest and understanding of the media is important, as is an ability to work to tight deadlines.

Salary £10,000 p.a. + Performance Related Pay. Holiday - 20 days p.a.

If you have the above requirements and a keen eye for detail, please send your C.V. to the address below, quoting Ref. MDE080, or call Sarah Chew on 071 226 1000.

For both positions, please apply in writing, with C.V., quoting the appropriate reference number, to PIMS U.K. Limited, PIMS House, Midway Avenue, London N1 4RS.

Tel: 071 226 1000 Fax: 071 704 1380.

RESEARCH POSITION

International market research and financial data base firm seeks an energetic and self-motivated individual to assist with telephone research calls and data base maintenance on a full time basis.

We require a candidate who is computer literate, has a university degree, possesses good communication skills and speaks a second European language. Work experience in financial markets is an advantage. Salary negotiable.

Please send your cv to: Dept. CA.1: 5 Dryden Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9NW

GENERAL MANAGER (M/F) FOR ALFIES, LONDON'S BIGGEST ANTIQUE MARKET

Applicants should be exceptionally well organized, experienced in the retail world, well versed in a broad range of antiques, furnishings, environmental, computer literacy and able to charm the birds from the nest. Salary neg. C.V.'s to: Bennie Gray 13 Church Street, London, NW8 8DT.

UK OPTICAL INDUSTRY

Clear vision in the high street

The ending of free eye tests has helped the industry to lose its shackles, says John Stansell

Jacky Fremont, UK managing director of the French lens-maker Essilor, says that such talk is addressing the wrong problem. The days of eye tests paid for by the NHS created the curious situation in which the UK had (and still has) the highest number of sight tests per head of population, but provides its customers with the least-advanced lenses to correct defects. "We were in jail in the NHS years," he says. "Now we must grow up and wake up."

How? By educating people about the quality of the products available and then providing them. Consumers have a "strong desire" to buy better products, and the profession should meet that desire, Mr Fremont says. He believes the recession had no effect on the industry. Instead, the ending of sight tests forced down sales and it has taken time for the industry and its customers to adjust to the new situation.

Richard Crooks, of the Pilkington subsidiary, Sola Optical, has a similar view but a different perspective. He believes that within the past few years the total market has not grown, but the business has migrated from the smaller to the larger companies. Larger lens-makers have benefited from aggressive marketing techniques used by the large retail multiples, such as Boots, Dollond & Aitchison, Spec Savers, and fast-turnaround suppliers such as Vision Express.

The government's action has also spawned an industry-wide investigation of the many bodies that represent the professionals. In addition to FODO, there is the Optical Information Council, the Federation of Manufacturing Opticians, the Association of British Dispensing Opticians, and non-commercial bodies such as the government's General Optical Council and the British College of Optometrists. In the past few months an "inter-professional committee" has begun to investigate how the profession could develop a single voice in dealings with government, the EC and consumers.

Meanwhile, technology continues to improve the quality of products and services. Increasing numbers of high-index lenses and plastics are making significant inroads in the market.

Despite all this progress, there is still a belief within the industry that Britain lags behind Europe in the sophistication of its eye care.

However, EC pressures, such as the recent directive on eye tests for regular users of visual display units — which requires employers to pay for the tests and any spectacles required — will have an impact. The adoption by Britain of the EC rule that people who need glasses to drive must always keep a spare pair in their cars would also stimulate the industry.

Free flight offers and half-price deals are being introduced to tempt the buyers

Free flights, half-price frames and cheap deals for children, are just some of the promotions that high street opticians are using to persuade consumers to buy more spectacles and contact lenses.

The optical market has never been more competitive. Independent opticians operating from small premises and offering limited choice are being squeezed by multiples such as Boots, Special Eyes and Lenscrafters, which, through their buying power, are able to offer discounts and incentives. Since deregulation of the market in 1989, opticians have been able to advertise both their services and promotions to try to build customer loyalty.

Brian D. Smith, the marketing director of Spec Savers, says: "Aggressive? It certainly is. Boots has offered half-price frames, Dollond & Aitchison two for the price of one. We are all doing it."

But even the multiples have to contend with British consumers who are notoriously reluctant to spend money on eye-wear. Spectacles are still viewed as a "grudge" purchase — the average spectacle wearer has 1.4 pairs, compared with French and German consumers, who consider glasses as fashion accessories and own an average of three or four pairs.

In an attempt to make eye-wear more desirable, the multiples have begun to sell their products just like any other consumer goods. Before deregulation sales were in the doldrums. Opticians were viewed as necessary but dull; their premises had a clinical air and there was little choice of products available. Many consumers also believed that they had to buy their glasses from the optician who carried out the eye test and were even less likely to make a purchase when VAT and the eye-test charge were introduced.

One of the main steps in building the market has been the opening of optical "superstores" by companies such as Vision Express and Spec Savers. They remove some of the "medical" connotations which surround eye



Looking good: Brian D. Smith, marketing director of Spec Savers, left, and Tim Moyle, a regional manager

All eyes on the competition

care and offer a huge range of products that are often available within an hour or two. This is all set in a familiar retail environment, allowing consumers to browse and try on frames at leisure.

Bob Murray, the marketing director of Spec Savers, says: "We were the first to introduce a retail environment with up to 100 styles and are completely different from the traditional, rather conservative old-fashioned optician."

Spec Savers, which has 67 outlets, also sells its products in a modern retail environment. Mr Smith says: "We are mass-market and our key customers are women aged between 25 and 35 who are comfortable shopping in the high street." In keeping with the retail environment, some opticians are now running promotions to persuade consumers to buy associated goods.

Spec Savers, a 200-strong chain, introduced the concept of two pairs of frames for the

price of one, which has also been taken up by Boots and Dollond & Aitchison. It heavily discounts and launches new initiatives. These include free frames and lenses for children and a free pair of contact lenses when consumers buy a certain amount of Spec Savers own-brand contact solution.

But, perhaps the biggest incentive so far has been Spec Savers' free-flight offer. This provided any customer who bought spectacles or contact lenses with one flight voucher valid for an Apex return to a range of cities.

Mr Smith says: "Opticians are marketing themselves very aggressively and we needed something more eye-catching than two frames for the price of one. We wanted something consumers could relate to as a fantastic opportunity."

Fully aware of the Hoover free-flights débâcle, Spec Savers, in conjunction

with Breaks International, which has handled flight promotions for Sainsbury, offered only one flight per purchaser, not two, as Hoover did. As most people do not travel alone, the company hopes to recoup its cost by tempting consumers to buy a full-price ticket for a friend.

Some industry observers suggest that promotions and discounts demean the image of opticians as a caring profession offering high quality products. But Mr Murray says: "Spectacles are a relatively low-cost item with fairly high margins, which opticians tended to keep themselves. We are passing that on to customers."

The way in which independent opticians say they can hang on to their consumers is by emphasising the quality of their products and service. Martin Hollenbury, who runs his own practice in central London, says: "We cannot match the marketing muscle of the multiples but we can offer better service and

individual attention and expertise." Des Taylor, Dollond & Aitchison's marketing director, agrees that while promotions can make a valuable contribution to marketing, it should not be at the expense of service or quality.

"While we do run discount price promotions we have to be careful to convey the right professional image. We would not discount the eye test because it is a fair price and consumers do not mind paying for the optician's professional time," he says.

While promotions may be short-term tactics to pull in consumers, it is likely that more of them will be launched. Sales of optical goods are expected to grow as our ageing population increases. Opticians will want a bigger share of the expanding market and one clear way to gain new customers is to offer them an incentive.

HELEN JONES

The author is business editor, Marketing Week



Lenny Henry is Spectacle Wearer of the Year "At Large"



LOOK RIGHT.



LOOK WRONG.

There's no mistaking which pair of eyes is wearing the bifocals.

Yet the eyes on the top are wearing bifocals too.

Varilux No Line Bifocals from Essilor.

A revolutionary bifocal lens that's constructed with any number of corrections.

Each flowing invisibly one into the other.

Thereby correcting your vision for all distances without the tiresome image splits or vision 'jumps' to be found with standard bifocals.

Making Varilux No Line Bifocals easier on the eyes as well as less taxing on the eyesight too.

For details of your nearest Varilux Specialist, FREEPHONE 0800 515755.

DON'T BIFOCALS BUY VARILUX®
NO LINE BIFOCALS



Sharper image for short sight

More than 10 per cent of the world's population is afflicted by short-sightedness (myopia). The effects of the disability range from the mere inconvenience of having to wear spectacles or contact lenses, to genuine hardship, where people are barred from following professions where good eyesight is essential.

Science offers two surgical solutions: photo-refractive keratotomy, where a laser is used to remove tissue from the centre of the cornea, and its precursor, radial keratotomy, where the cornea is reshaped by hand with a scalpel.

More than a century ago Herman Snellen, the inventor of the standard letter chart for eye-testing, first suggested that myopia might be permanently cured by altering the curvature — and so changing the power — of the cornea, the lens-like window of the eye. Radial keratotomy was first attempted in 1939 in Japan.

In 1973 it was taken up by the Russians and, in 1978, an American surgeon visiting Moscow came across it by chance. He took the procedure back to the United States where further research, using the tools of the computer age, resulted in even greater accuracy.

The operation has been available in Britain since the early 1980s. Patients must be over 20, the age at which the eye stops growing, and must be free from any eye disease. The procedure begins with measurements of the corneal thickness so that the surgeon can determine the number, length, depth and direction of the incisions needed to change the cornea's shape and so alter its power.

Carried out under general anaesthetic, the operation lasts 30 minutes. A standard 25 gauge needle is used to make a very light

Microsurgery is offering new hope to millions of sufferers with myopia, says Ros Drinkwater

mark on the cornea. Using a micrometer-set diamond knife, the surgeon then makes eight radial micro-incisions round the edge of the cornea. The second eye is operated on after several weeks. Once established, the altered shape is permanent.

Philip Starr, an ophthalmic surgeon whose team at the London Eye Clinic has carried out more than 1,200 operations with a success rate greater than 90 per cent using both procedures, feels that the idea of laser treatment has more psychological appeal to the public than invasive surgery with a scalpel.

For laser surgery, drops are used to anaesthetise the eye. All the patient is aware of is the faint clicking of the laser during the 30 seconds it takes to beam its light. The patient is able to return home within the hour. Post-operative pain is worse than after radial keratotomy and it can take three months for vision to return to normal. The second eye can be treated after six months.

Evidence suggests that the treatment produces permanent correction, but long-term results are not yet known. The normal aging process, or any underlying disease conditions, will still affect vision in the normal way. Due to the cost of the laser — more than £300,000 —

treatment is expensive, at about £400 to £1,500 per eye, depending on the choice of clinic. It is not available on the NHS.

Christopher Neave is managing director of the Corneal Laser Centre at Clatterbridge Hospital, Britain's first private centre offering laser treatment for myopia. Over the past two years 25 consultant eye specialists have treated more than 1,600 cases. "So many potential patients asked why I wore glasses, I decided to undergo the treatment myself and am delighted with the results," he says.

"We are able to show from our studies that for mild to moderate degrees of short-sightedness, the procedure gives very predictable results. Ninety per cent of our patients have reached or bettered the Ministry of Transport's minimum driving standard of vision without their glasses. For the most severe myopia, a significant reduction in the prescription is the most likely outcome."

Patients successfully treated at Clatterbridge include Derek Penhaligon, a Cornish firefighter threatened with early retirement because of short-sight, and PC James Chambers, a Metropolitan police constable who hated going into public houses in winter because his glasses steamed up. After an incident at the Notting Hill carnival when his glasses were knocked off and broken, he switched to contact lenses until his optician decided they were causing eye infections. Mr Chambers recommends the operation to anyone with short-sight.

● London Eye Clinic, 63 Harley Street, London W1, 071-436 6164; The Corneal Laser Centre, Clatterbridge Hospital, Bebington, Wirral L63 4YJ, 051-334 0738; St James University Hospital, Gleadow Road, Leeds LS9 7TF, 0532 461410



Improved outlook: Philip Starr gives a patient a check up

Which lens is the right one?

Disposables may make wearers more prone to problems

Two or three years ago disposable contact lenses were being promoted as the lazy person's eye-care system. The Association of Optometrists, in a widely distributed booklet, *Contact lenses, your questions answered*, was unambiguous. It had recently been realised, said the association, that the biggest problem with soft lenses occurred when lenses were used for too long or were not properly cared for. "So, if the lenses can be replaced at short intervals (one week, two weeks, or monthly) less care has to be taken with the cleaning systems."

Today most people in the optical business are backtracking on that sort of claim. The first part of it — that the biggest problems occur when the lenses are used too long or not properly cared for — still holds, but the suggestion that disposables may need less care is repudiated now.

There is concern at the way some people are using disposables. There have been several reports in professional journals of problems associated with disposables and in November the health department set up a working party at the request of the College of Ophthalmologists to look at the issue, particularly reports linking the lenses with bacterial infection.

Disposable contact lenses were introduced in the late 1980s. Their development was a natural progression from the conventional soft lens. Because soft lenses are porous, they tend over time to collect a residue of proteins, mucus and fats from the wearer's tears. Most wearers notice a decrease in the clarity of their vision — a signal that it is time to replace them. Once they are "dirty", wearers can be open to eye infections and allergic reactions.

In the early days a lot of people found the problems too great and simply stopped wearing contact lenses. Then research showed that if lenses were replaced every 12 months the drop-out rate fell significantly. It fell even more when the replacement period was cut to six months. Taking their cue from this, manufacturers reasoned that if the replacement period was cut even more radically, to maybe a week or two, the problems might disappear. So the disposable lens was born.

The manufacturers should have been laughing all the way to the bank. But they are now having to cope with

reports about eye conditions associated with the new lenses. The evidence is intriguing. Part of the problem would appear to be with extended-wear lenses (those worn overnight), but the latest study, by researchers from the City University and Moorfields Eye Hospital, in London, raises questions about daily-wear disposables too.

The study, which is not yet complete, appears to indicate that while certain kinds of eye problem such as the conjunctivitis associated with protein build-up are less pronounced with disposables than with conventional soft lenses, the incidence of the serious corneal infection, microbial keratitis, is greater.

Geoff Woodward, City University's Professor of Optometry and Visual Science, and



Disposables: doubts

researcher Chery Radford, have been analysing the first ten months' figures from a 12-month survey of patients attending the casualty department at Moorfields.

Preliminary analysis suggests that of patients wearing soft lenses, significantly more of those using daily-wear disposables had microbial keratitis compared with those with conventional lenses. Professor Woodward thinks there are three possible reasons. First, it might be something to do with the lens material. Second, the original marketing drive which suggested that disposables needed very little if any cleaning or other attention, may still be having an effect despite lens manufacturers' more recent advice to the contrary. And, third, it may be that the individuals who are using them are the very people who were having problems before with conventional lenses.

The debate is far from over. Martin Edwards, UK manager for Vision, the Johnson & Johnson contact lens company, cites other scientific evidence which, he says, clearly shows the advantages of disposables.

A recent paper by distinguished American researchers, for instance, suggests that eye complications are significantly lower among daily-wear disposable lens-users than among conventional soft daily-wear lens-users, and a Swedish study published last month shows that of all lenses analysed, daily-wear disposables have the lowest risk of contact lens-induced keratitis.

MALCOLM BROWN

Time to explode the carrot myth

Do carrots help you to see in the dark? Will wearing spectacles make your eyesight deteriorate? Are there eye exercises to correct short or long sight? No, says the Optical Information Council's leaflet, *Looking*, which dispels myths about eyecare. *Widget Finn* writes.

Fifty-eight per cent of the UK population wears glasses but most of us know little about how to look after our eyes. The Optical Information Council is an independent body which represents practitioners, dispensers and manufacturers in the optical field. It publicises the services available from opticians, the importance of eyecare and technological innovations and fashions in glasses and contact lenses.

Eyecare has been low on our list of priorities particularly since the introduction of eye-test charges, according to Michael Wheeler, a council member of the OIC. "An eye examination is as important as a primary health check and will include screening for eye diseases and other conditions."

The information council emphasises that the main role of optometrists, who have a four-year training, is to give professional advice and not

necessarily to sell spectacles. The council receives more than 200 enquiries a week, ranging from questions on whether colour blindness will affect a naval career, or how to deal with a squint, to advice on glaucoma. The most common concerns, says Gillian Strachan-Gray, the council's director of information, are how to use contact lenses or where to go for testing.

She says people are often confused about the various options that are available. "Ophthalmic opticians are now termed optometrists and can examine, prescribe and dispense spectacles, while dispensing opticians are trained technicians who can fit contact lenses, spectacles and advise on lens design," she says.

A visual screening programme taking a mobile eye-check unit to 12 locations across the country is to be launched by the council in the autumn, with sponsorship from the optical industry. Mr Wheeler says: "By taking information about eyecare and optical products to the public we hope to convince people how important it is to look after their eyes."

● Optical Information Council: 0932 353283

Optometrists are putting athletes' vision under the microscope

Chasing sport's top prizes

When the Scottish athletics team competes at the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Canada, a Glasgow optometrist, Peter Ivins, will be paying particular close attention to their performance. *Malcolm Brown* writes.

Mr Ivins, of the opticians C Jeffrey Black, has set up what is probably the first specialist eye clinic for sportsmen and women in the UK and is screening the 250 athletes from whom the final Commonwealth teams will be selected. He has already put 100 of them through a rigorous two-and-a-half hour battery of tests which measure everything from their basic visual acuity (whether, for example, they are long or short-sighted) to their visual skills such as eye-hand co-ordination and the ability to judge depth correctly.

The results to date seem to confirm the findings of other large-scale surveys of sportsmen: about 25 per cent of athletes have correctable visual problems of one sort or another. If such errors are corrected, usually with contact lenses, that should lead to better performance.

But is it possible to do more? Professor Alan Reichow, the Ameri-

can "sports vision" specialist, has shown that the best athletes often have very superior vision. The obvious question, then, is: can you improve sporting performance by enhancing visual skills as opposed to visual acuity? If you can train an athlete to improve, say, his eye-hand co-ordination, will he become a better athlete?

"A group of skilled athletes has got not only better acuity but all these other visual skills at a higher level," says Mr Ivins. "Has that just happened, or, if you could make a mediocre athlete have better skills would he then improve his sporting performance?"

Optometrists want to test the hypothesis scientifically. They are building up data which will tell them what the norms are for various skills. Mr Ivins says: "If you're a gymnast then you want to know if your eye-hand co-ordination measurement is better than that of the other team members or your competitors. You need to gather the data from an elite group, which is very hard to do."

Issues such as skill enhancement will form large on the agenda of the recently-formed Sports Vision Associ-

ation, set up through the Association of Optometrists. "Sports vision" has grown rapidly in America, where some sports teams even have their own optometrist alongside the team doctor and physiotherapist. The new association's members want to see it become established as a discipline alongside sports medicine.

"We want to optimise safe and efficient vision in sport," says Donald Loran, the chairman of the association, who is director of continuing education in the Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. The subject is already being incorporated in university-level courses, Mr Loran says. "Next year we're doing sports vision as a part-module in an MSc course, so we are hoping to train practitioners."

Sport is acknowledged as the single most important cause of serious eye injury in the UK. A squash ball, for example, travels at speeds up to 130mph, yet experts agree that if the players wore protective spectacles made of materials such as polycarbonate, eye injuries in the sport could be all but eliminated.

A welcome sight for sore eyes

If you have problems with your glasses, you can go back to the optical practice which supplied them. But if you are still dissatisfied about the service, until recently there was nowhere to complain.

Now you can contact the Optical Consumer Complaints Service (OCCS), an independent body set up in January to settle complaints from the public — provided the dispute involves an optical dispenser who subscribes to the service.

According to Colin Lee, one of the 2,000 optical practitioners who has joined, the council demonstrates that opticians are a responsible professional body. Patients, he says, should have an independent recourse for their complaints, which formerly could only be taken through family practitioner committees or a small claims court.

Optical practices which display the OCCS badge will provide information about how to make a formal complaint: members agree to accept the results of any formal conciliation procedures.

Donations from the five leading optical professional

bodies helped to start the service, which will have its small staff funded by subscriptions from members. "We get about 60 contacts a week, of which around ten are genuine complaints," says Tom Collingridge, the OCCS's consultant administrator. "The valid complaint is almost always a matter of poor communication. Once the practitioner knows the basis of the patient's complaint, he can put the matter right and reimburse where appropriate."

However, not all disputes are so easily settled. The OCCS may recommend that the complaint be dealt with through one of the professional bodies, such as the General Optical Council, or arrange for the case to be examined by an independent conciliator.

The OCCS may be a watchdog with few teeth, its only power being withdrawal of membership. But eventually the scheme should carry the same cachet as a trade association such as the Association of British Travel Agents.

● Optical Consumer Complaints Service, 071-580 8249.

WIDGET FINN



THE VISION OF GUCCI

POLO RALPH LAUREN EYEWEAR

Laura Biagiotti

GIA FRANKO FERRE LUNETTES

Eyewear made by

Safilo GROUP

Available at leading Opticians

For further information contact Lambert Optical (0423 520303)

Sponsors of "Spectacle Wearer of the Year" won by Chris Evans and Zandra Rhodes 1993

Until now there's only been one place to find a Nikon lens.



Because until now, the optical excellence of a Nikon lens has only been appreciated by the world's finest professional photographers.

But now, Nikon technologists have turned their eyes to the creation of a revolutionary new breed of lighter, more comfortable spectacle lenses, including the remarkable Nikon Lite range — up to 40% lighter and up to 34% slimmer than normal plastic lenses, allowing them to be used in larger, more fashionable frames.

Nikon

You'll see the difference

"Available from all registered opticians"

At £50,000, for your eyes only

Never mind the recession, how about spending £50,000 on a pair of spectacles? A mere bagatelle given that the frames are solid gold, come studded with diamonds, and carry the Cartier label.

To be able to offer a selection of high-fashion designer specs is now essential in the increasingly sophisticated and competitive optical business. It is a lesson which has not been lost on Essilor, the long-established French company which leads the world spectacle lens market.

While the company's fortunes have rested traditionally on technological advances — such as the plastic lenses it pioneered more than 30 years ago — it is now also boosted by partnerships with leading fashion design companies such as Lanvin, Fabergé, and Art Deco. Paradoxically, business is booming in the recession. Jacky Fremont, the managing director of Essilor in the UK, admits that not everyone is rushing out to buy the frames with the £50,000 price tag. But he says the cheaper models — starting at about £500 — are very popular.

In Britain, during the first five months of this year, the company's business in Cartier frames increased by 40 per cent. This reflects the fact that spectacles are becoming more of a fashion accessory than a medical device.

Mr Fremont claims that the legacy of the National Health Service means that the market for high-quality lenses is underdeveloped compared with the rest of Europe. This means there is huge scope for expansion.

He says Britain is 20 years behind the European average in terms of market penetration of so-called "progressive lenses", which have gained in popularity as they do away with the segment lines on bifocal lenses and the need to

Britain is catching up in designer specs, says Richard Woodman

switch between glasses for reading and other uses. With a progressive lens, wearers can move through a family of lenses as eyesight worsens.

Britain is also near the bottom of the league in sales of reflection-free coatings which reduce glare, improve vision by allowing more light through the lens, and generally look more attractive. Mr Fremont says only 13 per cent of lenses sold in the UK have anti-reflection coatings com-

advertising its Varilux range of "no-line" bifocals in the UK last year and, as part of the campaign, invited opticians to register as authorised product specialists.

"This has resulted in almost two thirds of independent opticians in Britain now being accredited," says Fiona Robinson, the product manager. "Practices across the board reported at least a doubling of Varilux sales during the campaign and in some cases sales quadrupled."

She adds: "Sales have proved that price is not an obstacle if the consumer believes the product is right. Therefore, if opticians present the very best solution to the patient, as well as putting a little extra effort into the personal sell, the return will be immediate profit." The hard-sell tactics are designed to capture a bigger share of the so-called Progressive Addition Lens (PAL) market which Essilor believes will grow at least 20 per cent during the 1990s. This may prove an underestimate, given the millions of post-war baby boomers who are now at the age when they face the onset of presby-



Jacky Fremont: "Opportunity for growth"

pared with 50 per cent in other countries.

"There is tremendous opportunity for growth in the UK, in terms of more sophisticated lenses. Growth in volume will only be about 1 per cent a year, but the value of the market could grow by between 7 and 10 per cent a year," he says.

To successfully expand the £750-800 million spectacle lens market, marketing is clearly important, and what better way than to foster a little rivalry and envy among opticians? The recently-launched "Optician index", sponsored by Essilor, is a monthly business monitor which helps optical retailers track their performance against national averages.

Essilor also spent £650,000

opia — the decreasing elasticity of the eye lens which occurs with advancing years, making it increasingly difficult to use the eyes for near-work.

According to Essilor, people with this problem span the age range 35-64, are fashion-conscious, and are prepared to pay for the privilege of looking good. In addition there are more than 4.5 million potential customers in the ABC 1 social classes.

The company, based at Thornbury, near Bristol, employs 192 staff but remains coy about how well it is doing. "We are the market leader but we have a policy of not discussing market share," Mr Fremont says. The precise share, however, is not crucial if the overall markets continue to expand.

Spectacles as a fashion statement have a celebrity pedigree that cannot be ignored



Style move: P.G. Wodehouse, left, Jackie Kennedy, Michael Caine in *The Ipcress File* and Asil Nadir. Famous faces and famous glasses

Time to prove Miss Parker wrong

They are the very swaggers. They lend an air, a zip, so to speak, to the appearance." So wrote P.G. Wodehouse of spectacles in 1930. For a further two decades, however, fashionable women remained unconvinced, influenced no doubt by Dorothy Parker's famous axiom about men making passes. As an octogenarian socialite recalls: "No beauty would have been seen dead in specs. Better to choke on a caterpillar than admit one's salad was out of focus."

It was in the late 1950s that Jacqueline Kennedy's penchant for ousted "shades" caught the public imagination. They became *de rigueur* for all occasions, irrespective of the weather. It was a short step to the idea of attractive prescription spectacles.

Designers obliged and a multi-million-dollar industry was born. More eccentric was the mid-1960s vogue for "granny" glasses, begun when a trendy Manhattan boutique acquired the stock of an old-fashioned optometrist who was going out of business. Commenting on the phenomenon, *The New York Times* solemnly declared that Miss Parker had finally been proven wrong.

Today, spectacles are as much part of a woman's

wardrobe as any other accessory. Nor is gender a barrier to style when Michael Caine made his starring debut in *The Ipcress File* his riveting performance was almost unstaged by the fact that he was the first screen hero to appear in glasses. Today's fashion-conscious male may own as many pairs as does the woman in his life. Asil Nadir has 30 pairs of spectacles, all variations on a conservative, steel-frame design.

For over half the British population, corrective glasses are a necessity rather than a fashion accessory. According to Mary Rose Cooney, of Lambert Optical, there is no reason why they cannot be both. The aim of Lambert's Spectacle Wearer of the Year award is to encourage people to wear their spectacles more often and to feel confident wearing them.

"If the stars can wear them with style, you can, too," Ms Cooney says. "Spectacles should be changed as often as people change a handbag or a tie and, with today's styles, shopping for frames can be as exciting as for any other



On target: the make-up spectacles

But health must always come before fashion. Derek Spivack, an optometrist in Mayfair, has a celebrity-studded list of clients. He emphasises that a wrong, or out-of-date, prescription can damage sight. A consultation with him includes a computerised examination to detect abnormalities in the retina, intra-ocular pressure checks for glaucoma and perimetry checks for visual field defects.

For the first-time wearer, he suggests a neutral design, feather light with an anti-reflection filter. Thanks to the development of thinner lenses, correction spectacles can now be made up in fashionably large frames. Nikon's new Lite range consists of three specially developed plastic lenses which are up to 40 per cent lighter and are 35 per cent thinner than normal lenses. They have almost total ultra-violet protection, a scratch and chemical-resistant coating and an anti-reflective treatment that eliminates flare, image flickering and ghost images.

Mr Spivack stocks a variety of top designer frames and, as

well as normal prescription glasses, a range of specialist spectacles. For VDU users he recommends wearing a tinted lens, either sodium yellow or grey, depending on the colour of the screen. Watchers of snooker on television will be familiar with the hinged-lens style worn by Dennis Taylor.

A variation on the same principle is make-up spectacles for the long-sighted: one lens flaps down, allowing you to apply eye make-up using the other (priced at £29.95). For those who are allergic to base metals, Mr Spivack can supply a set of frames in solid gold, but for these you will pay more than £2,000.

In the sunglass field this summer, two styles are emerging as fashion leaders: tortoiseshell frames in a variety of shapes, and with the extrovert in mind, the round-eyed, Left Bank intellectual look, brought up to date with coloured lenses.

Joseph, whose own prescription lenses are framed in tortoiseshell, is stocking the Cutler and Gross range. The oval metal frames are set with jewel-like lenses in gold-mirror and electric blue and green. "Perfect", says Joseph, "to complement the season's feminine long dresses."

ROS DRINKWATER

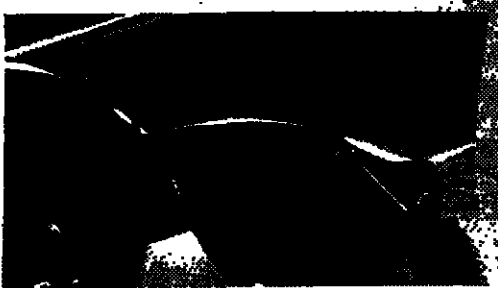
With Zeiss you can see...

...diagnostically



Ophthalmic and Surgical instrumentation

...fashionably



Spectacle Frames
Sunglasses

...more clearly



Spectacle Lenses • Contact Lenses

...the tiniest structure



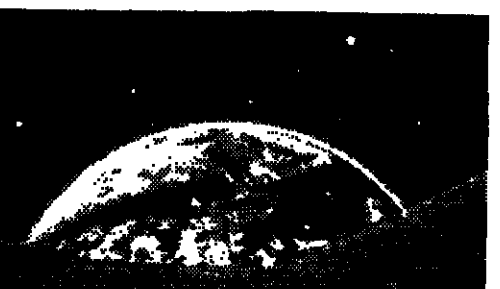
Microscopes

...the horizon



Surveying equipment
Binoculars

...the stars



Telescopes • Planetaria

The mark of
Carl Zeiss quality

With Zeiss the benefits are clear to see
For more information on quality products from Zeiss Tel. 0707 331144

ZEISS
Germany

صباح الخير

WEDNESDAY JUNE 9 1993
Privy Council
insurers



THEATRE page 38

Island temptress:
Joanna McCallum plays
Phaedra in The Pan
Beaters, at Greenwich

ARTS

INTERVIEW page 39

Sam Mendes promises
to make the Donmar a
theatrical pacemaker in
the heart of London



LITERATURE: Clive Davis meets Joseph Heller, whose follow-up to *Catch-22* is three-quarters complete

Slow progress to closing time

Seventy years old already, Joseph Heller still finds the idea hard to accept. The truth hit home during his current visit to Oxford when his wife threw a birthday party for him. As he looked around the table he realised he was the oldest person there, even though the guests included a number of retired dons.

Still, with his baggy hair, rumpled casual clothes and shoulder bag, he carries his years reasonably well. He is betrayed only by the faint stirring of his speech: the legacy of a crippling neurological disorder, Guillain-Barre syndrome, which struck without warning 12 years ago. Heller eventually recovered, but his physical stamina is still limited. He now finds a 20-minute walk a distinct strain.

Most of the year he can be found in fashionable East Hampton, the Long Island retreat for New York literati. This summer he has relocated to the austere surroundings of St Catherine's College — all rectangles and icy modernist logic — where he has been installed as visiting fellow. His links with the college go back to 1949, when he came to Oxford on a Fulbright scholarship.

He is here for one term, supervising workshops at which students can unburden themselves of their short stories and unfinished novels. The academic surroundings bring to mind the one-liner describing Clevinger, the Harvard man in Heller's most celebrated novel, *Catch-22*: "He knew everything about literature except how to enjoy it." It is a description that could be applied to many undergraduate students of English at Oxford.

Heller believes his role is not so much to teach that nebulous subject "creative writing", but to encourage

the students to discuss their work. Along the way he delivers blunt advice on launching a literary career.

"When I was an undergraduate," he says, "I would submit every short story I wrote and eventually, within a year, one or two were accepted by magazines. I don't know if it was a matter of luck or ability. But I tell the students: submit the story. If it's going to be rejected, all they do is send it back. They don't come and picket your house, they don't throw garbage through your window. And it gives you a feeling of being a professional, even if you're being rejected."

'I can't write, I can't compose for more than an hour and a half in one session'

Meanwhile he has his own work-in-progress to consider — the long-awaited follow-up to the classic *Catch-22*. Every morning he shuts himself away in a stark, cell-like room near the porter's lodge and works at his manuscript, provisionally entitled *Closing Time*. So far he has completed more than 800 handwritten pages. After another 200 or so he will move on to the more enjoyable phase of pruning and revising, with publication of the finished work set for some time next year.

He has already announced that he expects this to be his last major

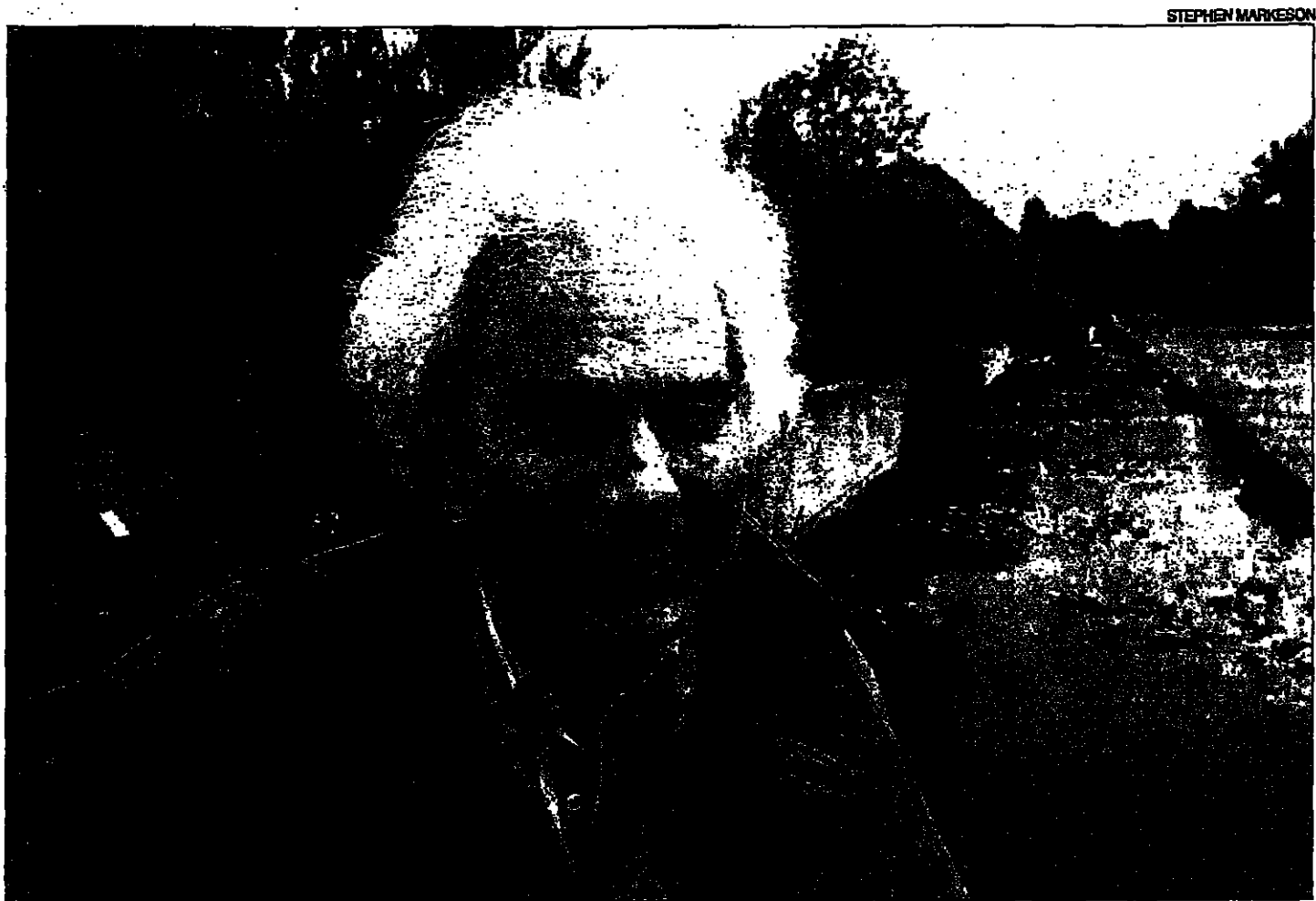
work of fiction. In view of his notoriously slow work-rate, *Catch-22* took eight years to write, while his next novel *Something Happened* did not appear until 13 years later — there seems every reason to believe him. *Closing Time* will bring his career full circle, re-introducing such characters as Milo Minderbinder and, of course, the reluctant bombardier Yossarian.

Some passages, he discloses, are lifted word for word from *Catch-22*. Yet he is wary of any mention of the word "sequel". "I don't think it properly as that. It contains some characters who were in the original novel but also a number who were not. Every so often it gets close to autobiography. Two of the characters were born in Coney Island, which is where I was born, and two of them work in advertising, which I used to do."

"If nothing else, it explores the interval between 1945 and the present day. The opening line is by a character who is not in *Catch-22* saying something like this: 'When people my age talk of the war it's not Vietnam but the one that took place almost half a century ago.'"

Thirty-two years have passed since *Catch-22* was published. A surrealistic account of an American air force base in the Mediterranean during the second world war, it was partly inspired by Heller's own experiences of air combat over Italy.

The book became one of the most extravagantly praised (its detractors would say overrated) works of fiction of the Sixties. Philip Toynbee's ecstatic review, acclaiming the novel as the greatest satirical work in the English language since Samuel Butler's *Erewhon*, is still regularly wheeled out for each suc-



Heller at Oxford: "I tell the students: submit the story. It gives you a feeling of being a professional, even if you're being rejected."

cessive edition of the paperback. It was Heller's first novel. When the film rights were bought in 1962 (an adaptation directed by Mike Nichols finally appeared in 1970) he was able to give up his full-time job in advertising. The problem he has faced ever since is how to match his early success. Like Norman Mailer, he has found it an uphill struggle. Heller at least has the advantage of having only one ex-wife to support.

Some critics feel that *Something Happened* (1974), the interior monologue of Bob Slocum, a disillusioned middle-aged executive, is a more disciplined and profound book than *Catch-22*. But that remains a minority opinion.

The novels that have appeared since — *Good As Gold*, *God Knows* and *Picture This* — failed to make as much impact.

An essayistic study intertwining the lives of Rembrandt and Aristotle, *Picture This* was given a particularly frigid reception. The *Times* reviewer described it as "the PhD that everyone would write if only someone would give them the money... *Picture This* reads like a chatty treatise, and even that particular irony can't save it."

Heller, not known for his public displays of self-doubt, makes light of the criticism. "When I read something saying I've not done

anything as good as *Catch-22* I'm tempted to reply, 'Who has?' At this stage in his career, he seems less concerned about running out of inspiration than the more prosaic question of having adequate reserves of cash in the bank.

In spite of all the royalties from *Catch-22*, the fear of not having enough money still preys upon him. He needs to know that he always has enough to support himself for the next two years. He is not, he claims, in that happy position at the moment.

Interviewers cannot avoid seeking links with his impoverished childhood in Brooklyn. He lost his father at the age of five and his family struggled to make ends meet

during the Depression. But the fact that he simply cannot work above a certain tempo also has to be taken into account.

"I can't write, I can't compose for more than an hour and a half in one session," he explains. "I have in mind exactly what I want to cover when I sit down, and when I've done it I'm out of vocabulary and I have to stop."

"Even when I'm working flat out, three handwritten pages per session is all I want, which is a little more than one typewritten page. When I was starting out I thought that was imposed upon me by the need to hold an office job, leaving me just a few hours at night. It is not."

CONCERTS: Stephen Pettitt on Górecki and a new work by Sally Beamish; plus other London reviews

Moving simplicity and border balladry

Adopting the stance often used for rock, the publicity material advertised this repeated Barbican event as "Górecki — The Concerts". One half-expected the gentle, sober-suited man to greet us from a laser-lit stage with those time-honoured words, "Hello, London". He did not, though he was obviously enjoying himself as, during the interval, he signed autographs from his seat for a long line of fans.

That is what he has, Górecki: devoted fans. Good luck to him, but good luck also to scores of other composers at least equally deserving of such attention. For surely one great danger of this or of any cult is that attention is diverted from the broader church. How marvellous it would be were this new audience to broaden its interests, to experiment and buy records of the kind of music that Classic FM does not play, that which challenges more but in the long run offers more.

As for this concert, it began with two fairly unremarkable works, the *Three Pieces in Old Style*, which date from 1963, and with the harpsichordist Elisabeth Chojnacka, the sub-Rachmaninoff minimalist Harpsichord Concerto of 1980.

But the focus of the evening was on that piece, the Third Symphony, otherwise the "Symphony of Sorrows", composed in 1976.

I must have been the last person in the country to hear the work. Straightaway I will admit that it was impossible not to be moved. The first movement's slowly accumulating and receding eight-part canon — Lutoslawski's Funeral Music made tonal — is particularly effective, and though otherwise Górecki largely resorts to sustained chords, simple oscillations and the most basic melodic ideas, the piece achieves poignancy and power through his sincere and direct response to the prevailing dark mood of the texts.

The London Sinfonietta, hardly facing the sternest of tests, played lushly under Paul Daniel's conducting. Disdaining the traditional baton, Daniel wisely and ably combined broad tempos with an unwavering momentum. Soprano Dawn Upshaw sang what has become her most famous role with radiance and deep emotion.

Sally Beamish's Oboe Concerto, "Tam Lin", given its first performance by the Premiere Ensemble at the Queen Elizabeth Hall last

Saturday, proved a refreshing and most welcome stimulant. Based on a ballad from the Borders district which concerns the insemination of a young aristocrat, Janet, by an elfin knight, Tam Lin, his rescue by her from Hell through a series of trials by terrifying transformation, and their eventual marriage as mortals, the piece betokens solid craftsmanship, individuality, sensitivity and communicability.

Whatever its source of inspiration, this music is no simplistic sequence of pictorial responses and stands in its own right as an accomplished abstract concerto. Beamish's language, predominantly lyrical and suffused with a strong dramatic sense, possesses some of the clarity found in Judith Weir's music, though Weir's pregnant combination of gentle wit and craggy line is absent. In the concerto's lovely opening soliloquy one feared that the work would owe too much to Britten's *Metamorphoses after Ovid*, the same principal instrument, essentially the same subject and manner of rhetoric. That misgiving proved groundless as the instrumentation became richer and

the complex textures were evolved. The work's climax is reached with Tam Lin's transformations and trials, reflected by some busy scoring for a large assortment of percussion. The part was brilliantly played here by Chris Brammick, and after such an effort it seemed fair that the work should end with a coup de théâtre from him, the Fairy Queen's parting curse on the couple visually signified by the dropping of wind chimes into a perforated steel receptacle. An effective racket it made, too. But the

major soloist in a work demanding many of them was Douglas Boyd, whose creamy timbre (the opposite of the Heinz Holliger school of sinewy oboe playing) and shapely, long phrasing matched the piece's flavour perfectly.

Mark Wigglesworth directed a carefully rehearsed and vivid reading, which he cleverly framed with performances of Mozart's Symphonies Nos 39 and 40. All Mozart's music is by definition young man's music, and he made it sound that way. I loved it.



Henryk Górecki: his music is inspiring fanatical admiration

Religious duties performed

JANACEK's great *Glagolitic Mass* makes its swamping exit with an entrance. The exultant "Intrada", heard at the beginning, and with which he work ends, is a new beginning; the mass is ended, and the going forth is its glory. It takes an organist as confident as John Scott to make it work. And it also takes an orchestra whose strings can continue that pean of praise with no sense of anti-climax.

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Sir Peter Pesek was not on top form on Monday, and Janáček's music made it clear. Both in this ending and earlier, as the primitive rhythmic figures are battered back and forth antiphonally between brass and strings, the violins never quite seemed able to answer with a comparable brilliance and force.

Their weakness was emphasised by the strength of the Brighton Festival Chorus and the soloists. In particular Hilary Finch. Her opening "Gloria" words of the Old Slavonic text hurled out, ripe and raw against an orchestra shot through with woodwind bird song, at last found the heart of the mass. The chorus made of the opening of the "Credo" a hushed, infected

RPO/Pesek
LPO/Welser-Möst
Festival Hall

breath, and John Horton Murray's tenor rang out in affirmation with the voice of the trumpet. Ameral Gunson (mezzo-soprano) and Roger Roloff (baritone) also had the measure of the work's primitive pantheism.

Janáček's motives in writing the *Glagolitic Mass* were more patriotic than religious, though in the end it is the work's pan-national spirituality which triumphs. The first half of the concert, too, saw national-romanticism and nature-worship fused in four movements from Smetana's *Ma Vlast*, the cycle of six symphonic poems celebrating the Czech nation.

There is no reason, though, why a Czech conductor should necessarily offer a more authentic or searching performance of the work and Pesek's veered towards the unexceptional. In the bright, heraldic detail of "Vysehrad", phrase upon phrase, rampart upon rampart of the castle on the hill was

sturdily built. The shifting currents of "Vltava", too, were kept swirling, but with more energy than subtlety.

THIS concert was certainly full of spirit, even if the musical detail left much to be desired. The reverse was the case on Sunday. Franz Welser-Möst conducted the London Philharmonic in a well played concert of Shostakovich and Schubert which was interpretatively as unfocused as the programme itself.

Shostakovich's First Symphony was played with spry vigour, with the orchestra's soloists rising to the challenging sectional and solo writing with which the composer colours this work. But Welser-Möst was never able to sustain energy and tension as well as he built it. Neither did he seem to have any particularly well defined personal response to the piece.

The same, strangely enough, could be said of the Schubert Mass in E flat. Despite some quite outstanding solo singing from Judith Howarth, Christine Cairns, John Mark Ainsley and Michael George, too much was taken for granted in this performance.

HILARY FINCH

Individual honours

GIL Shaham, the American-born, Israel-trained violinist, bravely committed to memory the solo part in the Violin Concerto for which Korngold raided four of the film scores he composed during his Hollywood exile in the 1930s. The composer fashioned them into the kind of romantically lyrical and virtuoso showpiece that falls easily on the ear, even when it lies not so conveniently under the player's bow and fingers.

Shaham gave it warmth and expressive character, which is about as much as can be done for a work where the course of the music is mostly so predictable that it runs out of interest before anything much is developed. André Previn conducted the London Symphony Orchestra's equivalent of an orchestral zimmer-frame in dogged support of a soloist whose technical expertise and assurance of style deserved a worthier challenge.

The concerto followed an account of Haydn's Symphony No 102, which sounded diminished in scope under Previn's conducting. His interpretation smoothed out the music's contours initially, and there was a crucial lack of boldness in articulating an opening move-

ISO/Previn
Barbican

ment that is among the most dynamic in Haydn's output. The music trundled forward with none of the explosive impact it should generate, and of the other movements only a brisk and breezy finale showed the requisite spirit.

Seating the violas outside the cellos was even less of an asset in their sometimes exposed passages during Strauss's *Also sprach Zarathustra*, where their direction of sound was away from the audience. Overall, this performance attempted little in the way of subtlety or shading, but was content to treat the symphonic discourse as a series of episodes.

Any virtues that emerged were mainly in the response of individual players or instrumental sections, among whom the violins and their guest leader Konstantin Stoianov reflected a sense of line and a touch of finesse that eluded the sometimes coarse wind instrument playing.

NOEL GOODWIN

ATTILA

VERDI'S POWERFUL EARLY MASTERPIECE

Presented by the Royal Opera House

A BLAZING TRIUMPH

SUNDAY TIMES

BOOK NOW
JUNE 14, 17, 19,
22, 25, 28, 30
JULY 3 AT 8 PM

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
Covent Garden

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale talks to the Donmar's Sam Mendes; (below), Andy Lavender on a fight for success

Boss of the best little Warehouse in town

In Sam Mendes's metaphor, the London theatre is a great rainbow to which his Donmar Warehouse must add a colour that is distinctively its own. But what should that be? A dangerous scarlet, like his production of Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins*, the musical that opened the rebuilt playhouse last autumn? Or a sinister grey, like his touring *Richard III*, which touched down there in February? Or some weird, eye-catching mix of the two? Eight months into his tenure as the Donmar's artistic director, Mendes is in the paradoxical position of feeling that the theatre is acquiring an identity without quite being able to formulate what that identity is.

What can be said for sure is that, at the dauntingly young age of 27, Mendes is re-establishing the Donmar as what it was when the Royal Shakespeare Company presented Bond, Polanski and Ian McKellen's *Macbeth* there: a theatrical pacemaker in the ageing heart of the West End. After the British premiere of *Assassins* and a marvellously spare, clear *Richard III*, we saw *Playland*, Athol Fugard's ex-cathedra comment on political change in South Africa, and Cheek by Jowl's production of De Musset's seldom-performed *Don't Fool With Love*.

Tonight comes Mendes's own production of Brian Friel's *Translations*, followed by Michael Frayn's new play *Here*. The autumn and winter bring Simon Donald's *Life of Stuff*, a rough and raucous comedy-thriller that was a huge success at last year's Edinburgh Festival; Alan Cumming playing Hamlet to Eleanor Bron's Gertrude; and the musical *Cabaret*, with Jane Horrocks as Sally

Bowles. Call it a greeny-orange sort of scarlet-grey with bits of purple and brown.

One constant, though, is the encouragement of what Mendes claims is "a new generation of actors instead of the older generation of surefire house-fitters". At the same time, Mendes is talking to several of the newer directors, among them Katie Mitchell and Phyllida Lloyd, in the hope that they, too, will bring a blend of youth and class to his Covent Garden habitat.

But perhaps Mendes comes closest to describing a policy for his theatre when he says he wants to "create a studio aesthetic in a commercial environment" and "operate as the West End". That there is a gap here cannot be doubted, Hampstead Theatre's production of James Saunders's *Making It Better* recently transferred to the Criterion, trailing excellent reviews, and found even that small theatre too big to fill.

But the Donmar has only 250 seats, and so is ideally suited to house the kind of work that the racier impresarios used to present in the West End but are now finding financially too perilous.

The good news is that *Assassins* and *Richard* both played to near-full houses, and *Playland* defied the usual fate of earnest two-handers by filling 60 per cent of seats. Maybox, the owners, must be pleased with the risk they took in handing a theatre that had cost them £1.3 million to redevelop to someone in his mid-twenties. Mendes seems

'I want to create a studio aesthetic in a commercial environment'

to be relishing even the job's peripheral aspects: "Someone said to me: 'Don't you get bored thinking about the toilets and how they're to be cleaned?' and I said, 'No, I rather enjoy it.'"

But his time has mostly been taken up evolving, as he puts it, "projects that try to extend the vocabulary of the theatre in central London". He would, he says, like to tackle Sondheim again ("a distinct possibility") and hopes to build up a reputation for staging studio musicals.

"But we should also go on doing reviews and premiering new plays by major British and international writers."

Not everything will be work that he himself will direct or would even wish to do so. He feels he has erred in the past by staging plays that did not fully engage him. A recent revival of O'Casey's *Plough and the Stars* disappointed him as much as it did many of the critics. "The more I go on, the more I realise there's a big difference between visualising something, having a set and a cast and some nice ideas in mind, and truly feeling and imagining it," he says.

"There's nothing more satisfying than imaginatively entering the world of the play, redefining and rejuvenating it. The ideas start coming so thick and fast that you spend the last two weeks of rehearsal paring the thing down. Equally, there's nothing more unsatisfying than finding half-way through rehearsal that you haven't really been driven to do it. You can get by, create a

respectable evening, but something extra — a passion I suppose — is missing."

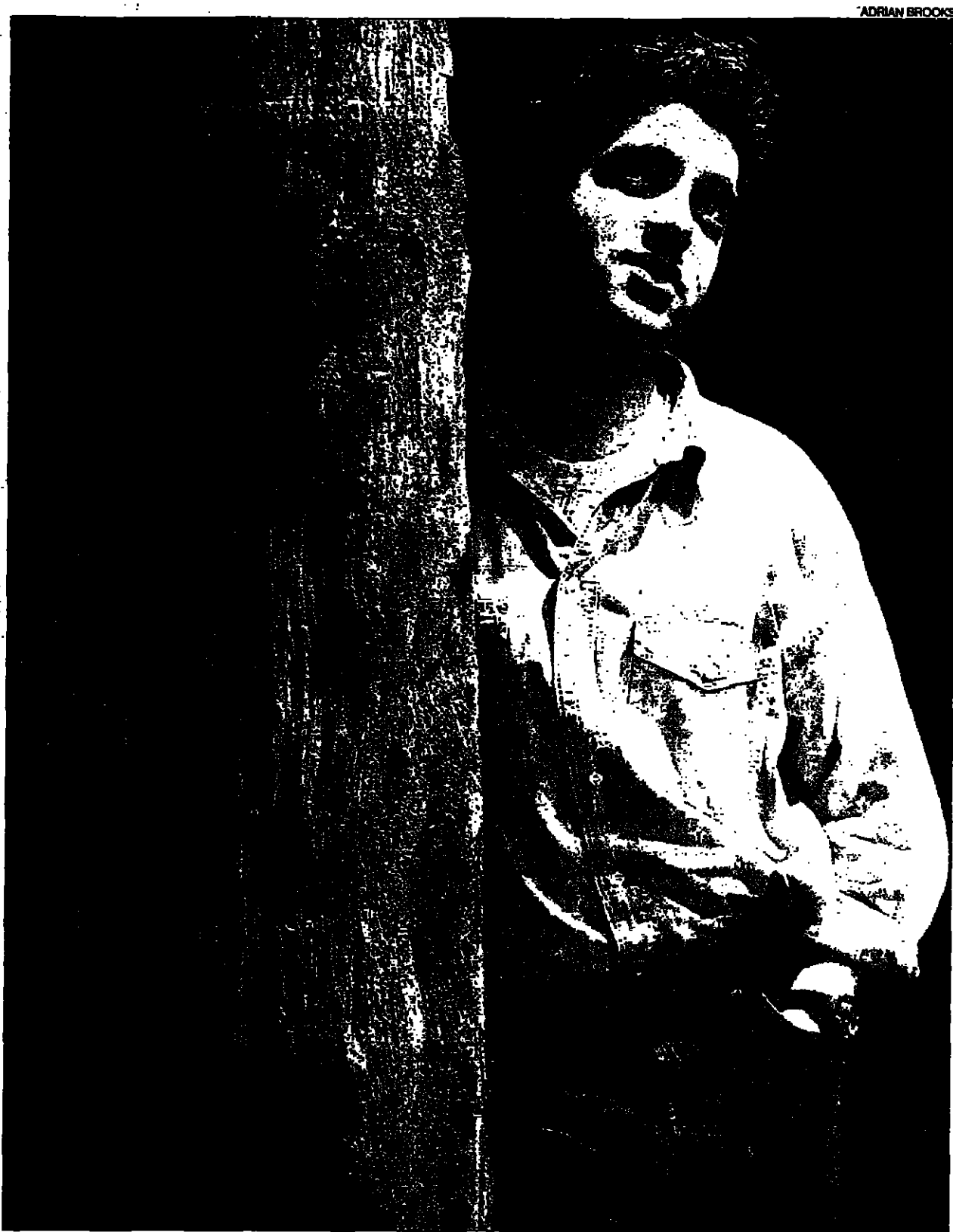
Again, Mendes has learnt that the Donmar has its limitations. The tiny auditorium is surprisingly lofty, which means that actors cannot lower their heads or speak downwards. Only part of the stage can be seen by every spectator simultaneously. Large, rhetorical classics would probably burst its seams. "But it can embrace both the epic and the domestic," Mendes says. "You can find lots of energy at it and it will work, yet you can do something very detailed and emotionally precise, and somehow it will take on an almost mythic quality."

That should suit Frayn's *Here*, which Mendes calls "a private, personal, rather surreal and dreamlike play about a relationship that begins when a couple move into a flat and finishes when they move out". It may also suit Friel's *Translations*, in Mendes's view "an ideas play about the English in Ireland, about the nature of language, and much more".

That spare, open stage will, he hopes, help his tale of a collapsing culture to reverberate in ways a proscenium arch would not permit.

Mendes's next stop will be Stratford, where he is to direct Alec McCowen in *The Tempest*. Then it will be back to London to prepare a revival of *Cabaret* that will test both that musical's durability and the flexibility of the Donmar itself. "What I'd like to do is to make the theatre into Sally's nightclub, take out the seats, put in tables and chairs, and stage it in a very intimate, simple way. But we'll have to see. We are, after all, still finding our feet."

• Translations opens at the Donmar Warehouse (071-567 1150) tonight



Sam Mendes: "There's nothing more satisfying than entering the world of the play, redefining and rejuvenating it"

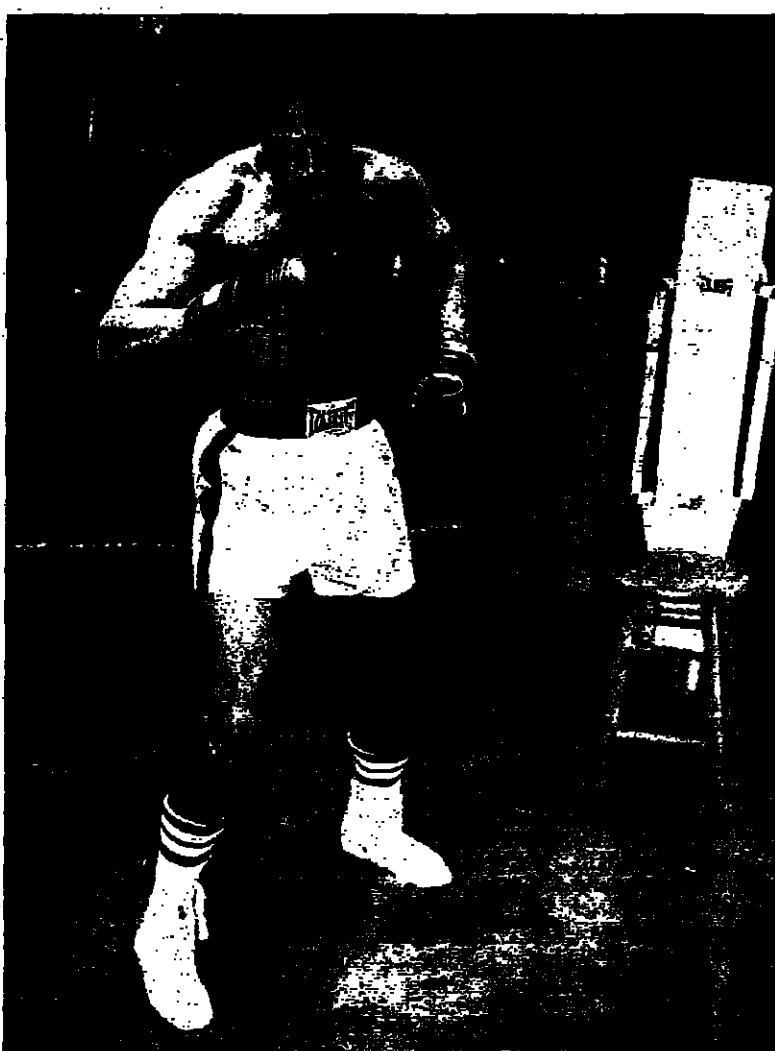
Going for a technical knockout

Can a one-man show about Muhammad Ali turn the Mermaid into a real contender at last?

You have to have a certain bravura to write a one-man show about the life and personality of Muhammad Ali, but that is what Geoffrey Ewing has done, in collaboration with Graydon Royce. What is more, Ewing is the sole performer. Ali has seen the show and expressed his admiration, as have a number of the great boxer's friends and members of his family. This is not as remarkable as the fact that Ewing has scored points with the press as well. By all accounts this is far from a bland exercise in hero-worship.

Ali comes to London's Mermaid Theatre after a successful off-Broadway run. The American notices praised the accuracy of Ewing's performance, which jump-cut across the years from the young Cassius Clay to the man afflicted with Parkinson's Disease.

So far so impressive, but Ewing may find British audiences more difficult to corner for a show which seems American to its core. If the trip across the Atlantic is a gamble for him, it is no less risky for the Mermaid, in the City of London. Ali is the first show to appear there under a new-broom management. One of the last shows to do well there was Glasgow's Citizens Theatre production of Brecht's *Mother Courage* a couple of years ago, with Glenda Jackson in the title role; a big star, a big play and, with Philip Prowse as director and designer, a striking production.



Instilled with the Greatest: Geoffrey Ewing pays tribute to the great Ali

It needs this scale of theatre to fill the Mermaid, which has one of the biggest stages in London and a 610-seat auditorium which extends upwards in one large rake, making the theatre feel

cavernously empty when there are few people in it. Unfortunately it has felt empty too often, which is why the Shamji family, the owners since 1983, have installed one of their own as

general manager. At 21, Akbar Shamji enters this unknown territory in the manner of a man whistling as he strides through the jungle.

The theatre has, as yet, no orthodox artistic director; Shamji will organise the programming himself, and he promises an ambitious, if loosely defined, policy of concentrating on international theatre, with the possibility of linking with venues and producers in America, Russia and elsewhere. There is talk of Steven Berkoff coming with a production of *Coriolanus*, for instance, and then the Moscow State Puppet Theatre, but the contracts have no ink on them as yet. Meanwhile Ali is upon us, and it does promise to be a little out of the ordinary.

Ewing was coached in his moves by Ron Lipton, Ali's former sparring partner, but the show promises to be about things other than the blood and sweat of boxing. "I feel Ali has been misunderstood," Ewing says. "He's also a human being, he's got a lot of weaknesses, frailties, and we try to show those things. But at the same time I feel he transcended the sport of boxing because of his spiritual beliefs and his commitment to humanity."

Ali famously changed his name as part of his dedication to the Muslim faith, which in turn led him to speak out against the Vietnam war at a time when flag-waving was more acceptable behaviour. The attraction of playing him, then, is easy to see: a sports star who became a symbol of black achievement and was at the same time a man of immense individuality, always flamboyant and theatrical. You could say he has a kind of mythic appeal.

"Well, mythical to me means like a god," Ewing says. "And I don't think he's a god. He's a person who stood up for what he believed in."

ANDY LAVENDER
• Ali previews at the Mermaid (071-110 0000) from tomorrow, and opens on Monday

RADIO: Triumph and tragedy both real and imagined

A week before the sculptor Elisabeth Frink died last April, an enormous bronze Christ by her was unveiled at Liverpool Cathedral. Listeners learnt, from an excellent, though poignant, interview with Bryan Robertson (Kaleidoscope, Radio 4, Saturday), recorded just before her death, that she thought it was her "best work". So perhaps before she died — aged only 62 — she had a last sense of triumph.

Robertson managed very skilfully, while talking to her, to convey the feeling of being in her Dorset studio — the chickens outside the window, the 13ft Liverpool Christ looming above, still an unfinished work in plaster. He also got her to talk very well, in the clipped colloquialisms that took you straight back to her polo-playing father.

She said that she had always loved working with plaster, moulding it, then carving it when it had hardened — "You can pile it up in no time." But for the first time in her life she was using an assistant, "a strong young man to take the buckets of plaster up".

The talk ranged widely, from this "tough, rough Christ" to the "museum groupies" who visited her studio, and her cheerful grumble that the British Council only bothered about young sculptors ("but us oldies are doing quite well"). She said that the other piece she was working on was a conversation between a man and a baboon. She did not think it would be very popular, because the man was asking the baboon for forgiveness.

Beneath all her words, you

A short life and two gay ones

felt both the vulnerability that came out in many of her bird and animal figures — "vulnerability, not sentimentality", she insisted — and the indomitable spirit that permeated her last works.

On Monday night Radio 4 offered its own extraordinary view of Gaveston — a play by Colin Haydn Evans. Gaveston, the ambitious, smooth-tongued Frenchman, had become an English sacrificial "king".

Haydn Evans presented 14th-century history as a battle between Christianity and an ancient "green" religion which, it was claimed, practically every Englishman still believed in. Gaveston was not murdered in a ditch, but gave himself up as a sacrifice to Nature on a hillside in May, with Robin Hood coming out of the forest to slay him ritually, and everyone from the peasants to the troops keeping the barons back.

The "religion" was wishy-washy, the history ridiculous, the drama heavy-handed and the mood quite sadistic, with every shriek of pain lovingly prolonged. Marlowe would have rubbed his ears in amazement.

DERWENT MAY

Picasso's hard cell

DETAINED at Her Majesty's pleasure, the inmates of Leyhill Prison in Gloucestershire will not be deprived of the finer things in life: namely, Picasso's engravings. Some 31 Picasso prints — depicting insects, birds and animals, and designed to accompany George Buffon's 18th-century treatise *Histoire Naturelle* — will be displayed in the prison next month. It will be the first time that a South Bank touring exhibition has visited a prison, and the show will be open to the public on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, as well as to the 400 prisoners, who include 120 lifers. The exhibition will be opened on July 1 by Leslie Grantham, "Dirty Den" from *East Enders*, who is himself no stranger to the inside of Leyhill Prison.



• **FIRST** it was a novella; then a film; next an opera. Now *Death in Venice* is about to receive its world premiere as a play. Red Shift Theatre Company has been awarded the rights to do a stage adaptation of Thomas Mann's famous story of ageing, love and regret amid the decaying splendour of Venice. The play will have its premiere at the Edinburgh Festival before a national tour.

Visconti's 1971 film, which starred Dirk Bogarde, upset the Mann family, who considered it a travesty of the original novella. Benjamin Britten's 1973 opera, though, did meet with their approval. Red Shift says it is planning to refer to the story's different incarnations in its stage version, which will be adapted

and directed by Jonathan Holloway. *Death in Venice* will open in Edinburgh on August 15.

Last chance . . .

IN THE end Handel is about singing. The English National Opera production of *Ariodante*, one of his great operas, boasts Ann Murray, Amanda Roocroft, Lesley Garrett and Christopher Robson in the leading roles, and the drama finds vibrant expression in and through their golden larynxes. David Alden's production is controversial but the intensity of the performances he draws from the cast easily outweighs a certain clutter around the edges of his staging (all those wretched chairs). The ENO's excellent chorus master, Harry Bicket, has taken over the conducting duties from Nicholas McGegan, and the last performance this season is tomorrow at the Coliseum (071-836 3161).

JUDGED by normal standards, this show was something of a shambles. Eccentrically structured, it lurched from moments of intimacy to displays of old-fashioned vaudeville. One moment we might be listening to a surging Basie-style big band riff, the next we would be regaled with a rapt one-man version of "You're My Best Friend" in tribute to Freddie Mercury, of all people. Then there was a bout of Mardi Gras dancing by the band members, plus a boys-versus-girls singalong on "You Are My Sunshine".

Against the odds, the disparate elements all held together. Harry Connick Jr flirted with disaster, not to mention bad taste, several times, yet managed to reaffirm his place among the handful of truly charismatic live performers.

As his following increases, he faces the awkward problem of catering to at least three distinct audiences. Most of his fans, I imagine, come to hear

JAZZ CONCERT

June tune

SWOON

Harry Connick Jr
Albert Hall

the romantic ballads from *When Harry Met Sally*, some are attracted by the jazz arrangements and the pounding New Orleans piano. Others again — the ones who do most of the screaming — are probably there just to see him wiggle his bottom.

For the first half an hour it seemed as if the crooning would sweep everything else to one side. On his last visit to the Albert Hall, two years ago, Connick built up the momentum gradually, opening with a dash of solo piano and a big band instrumental. This time

he plunged into the songs. "I Could Write A Book" still hits the spot. "The Bare Necessities" came perilously close to Las Vegas self-parody.

One of Connick's great assets is his ability to strike up a rapport with his audience and draw them into his performance. On this occasion (he had a cold, apparently) he seemed unusually subdued at first. When he finally moved across the stage to the piano for a long solo which spun variations on "I Got Rhythm", he became more animated, effortlessly shifting up a couple of gears. From there on, it simply got better and better.

The solo tribute to Mercury was, surprisingly, one of the emotional highlights. For jazz lovers there was a brassy, Kenton-esque instrumental with the band galloping along behind the tenor saxophonist Ned Gould. It had been another extraordinary roller-coaster ride.

CLIVE DAVIS

The Grosvenor House Antiques Fair

THE ANTIQUE DEALERS FAIR

9th-19th June 1993

Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London W1

Charity Gala Evening

10th June, 6.30pm-9.30pm. Tickets £100
Contact: Help the Aged. Tel: 071-253 2926

Opening Times

9th June, 5pm-8pm. 10th June, 11am-5.30pm
Subsequent Weekdays: 11am-8pm
Weekends: 11am-6pm

Admission

9th-18th June: \$12 single ticket including Handbook
£20 double ticket including one Handbook
19th June only: £6 per person excluding Handbook
Children under 5 free. No pushchairs
Concessionary rates available for students, and children under 17 years accompanied by an adult

Enquiries

Tel: 071-499 6363 or, from 5th June, 071-629 0024

Changes inevitable after players fail to follow Gooch's lead at Old Trafford

England caught in grip of defeatism

Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, argues that England need to rediscover their self-belief

One down, five to come and, already, English cricket fears the worst. Defeat in the last match of an epic Ashes Test match might not seem a cause for such anguish but it arises from the strengthening impression of an England team that has lost its way and forgotten how to win.

Allan Border, the Australia captain, has always been gracious in victory, and shrewd with it. On Monday night, still caked in the sweat and grime of eight hours' fielding, he identified the problem. "England are in the when-do-we-win-next syndrome," he said.

It has taken such a grip that there are some who struggle to remember the last win, let alone contemplate the next, but the point is well made. Victories are not achieved purely through being the better team but by being the team which is accustomed to the process of winning and comfortable with its ultimate end, as Australia did in the first Test at Old Trafford.

There are not many ways in

which any limited-overs match stands comparison with the sort of contest we have just seen over five days, but here is one. England lost the Test series 3-0 but could easily have won it 2-1. Twice they lost their sense of direction when a win was there for the taking, the mark of the team at Old Trafford, the team that no longer expects to win.

The corollary is that either the team's leadership must be questioned, or the character of its individuals. Somewhere between the two lies the root of the troubles.

First, the men in charge. If this was the England football

Year	Opposition	W	L	D
1989	Australia (home)	6	0	1
1989-90	West Indies (away)	4	1	1
1990	New Zealand (home)	4	1	1
1990	India (home)	3	3	0
1990-1	Australia (away)	5	5	0
1991	West Indies (home)	5	1	2
1991-2	New Zealand (away)	1	2	1
1992	Pakistan (home)	3	3	0
1992-3	India (away)	3	3	0
1992-3	St. Lucia (away)	1	0	0
1993	Australia (home)	1	0	1
TOTAL		40	9	13

England last won the Ashes in 1989-7 after losing three successive series against West Indies, India and New Zealand — and enduring a run of 11 matches without a victory. England's sequence of four successive wins against West Indies, Sri Lanka and New Zealand in 1991-2 was the best since 1979. The present run of six defeats is their worst since the seven against West Indies and India in 1988.

Date	Opposition	Venue	Result
Aug 1989	Pakistan	The Oval	8 wickets
Jan-Feb 1993	India	Chennai	8 wickets
Feb 1993	India	Madras	innings and 22 runs
Mar 1993	India	Bombay	innings and 15 runs
Mar 1993	St. Lucia	Colombo	5 wickets
June 1993	Australia	Old Trafford	179 runs

Dexter is into his fifth summer. If the Ashes are badly lost, it seems certain to be his last. But to judge him by the way the England team plays is as crass as judging school governors by exam results; there is far more to the chairman's job than selection and little he can do about performance.

So it is Gooch who is being constantly scrutinised, much being read into his demeanour, his tactics and his re-

luctant public utterances. He may have only two more games in charge but, in truth, he is no different from when being lauded to the skies as a national hero. He remains the best batsman in England and a captain the players respect, but the public resents his inaccessibility. Gooch is not cheerful enough for some, he is not dynamic enough for others. So, in the minds of many, Gooch must go.

This is not the short-term

solution and, with the Ashes at stake, the short-term should be all that concerns us. None of the alternative captains inspires confidence. Mike Gatting has spent the early part of the summer being angry with himself, often with good reason. Alec Stewart is still no closer to knowing whether he is a batsman or wicketkeeper (he knows only that he is not both) and Michael Atherton is unlikely to survive the selectorial cuts for the second Test at Lord's next week.

Gooch was at fault in going prematurely onto the defensive last Saturday, but he was influenced by the bowling at his disposal. If he has a reason to look gloomy, it is the response he receives from certain members of his team. There were too many, at Old Trafford, who appeared to accept that yet another defeat was on the way, and showed none of the character — epitomised by Gooch himself — necessary to avert it.

Dexter said when the team was chosen that there would be "no chopping and changing" of the bowling attack. He will have to forget that now. Among other comments he will be wishing he had not made are that Chris Lewis was

one of the great bonuses of the winter tour and that Phillip DeFreitas was called up at Old Trafford "as someone who can put the ball in the right place".

Lewis and DeFreitas must not play at Lord's. Both have been given endless opportunity and produced little to merit such loyalty. DeFreitas was lucky to be the man recalled when Leggesden was injured, but he is not both a batsman and a bowler and hardly bowled an outswinger.

Lewis was responsible for the worst piece of cricket at Old Trafford when he took it into his head to bowl the last ball before tea, on the first day, off three paces. Not only did he present Mark Taylor with a leg-side half-volley, which was dispatched for four, he also contrived to bowl a no-ball.

Fletcher and Gooch will have failed in their duty if Lewis was not berated for such laziness, timed to give teammates the worst feeling of all, one of defeatism. In this, Lewis was not alone. No cricketer is happy to lose a game but some compete harder than others. The selectors' priority is now to rid the team of men who have not only forgotten what it is to win but lost the belief that the habit can be regained.

Derbyshire earn their spot in final

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

DERBY (Northamptonshire won toss; Derbyshire beat Northamptonshire by eight wickets)

NO CLUB has greater need of a final at Lord's and no players will enjoy their day there more than Derbyshire's. Splendidly aggressive batting by John Morris and Chris Adams, building on a century partnership by Barnett and Bowler, graced the sunlit ground last night, entitling them to be there on July 10.

On their last visit five years ago, in the same competition, Derbyshire played the left-arm swing of Steve Jefferies

in a painful financial position. This win, therefore, accomplished with 21 balls to spare, is a boon. Kim Barnett, every inch the pro, vowed early in his captaincy to make this team competitive in all types of cricket. By beating the side that won the NatWest Trophy so convincingly last September, he has been true to his word.

Although Barnett was the game's top scorer, making 61 out of the first 102, it was Morris who won it. Opting to attack as soon as he arrived, he coaxed the best out of Adams, who joined him three overs later.

Derbyshire needed more than six an over from the last 15; Morris and Adams set about it with some thrilling stroke play. Adams picked up the senior player's theme so expertly that he ended the game in a blaze of glory, hoisting Curran and Taylor high over the leg-side field for sixes, before driving the winning boundary to complete his half-century from 36 balls.

Derbyshire were so superior in every respect, particularly fielding, that Allan Lamb must despair at talent gone to waste. His players relieved Bowler and Barnett twice with careless work in the field, and they seemed to lose heart when the match slipped away from them.

Lamb's 60 was the innings which altered the tempo of the match after Malcolm, with two cheap wickets in an impressive opening burst, had justified Barnett's decision to field. Lamb had made 60 from 69 balls when Carl Krikken, responding alertly to an outside edge, held the better of his two catches.

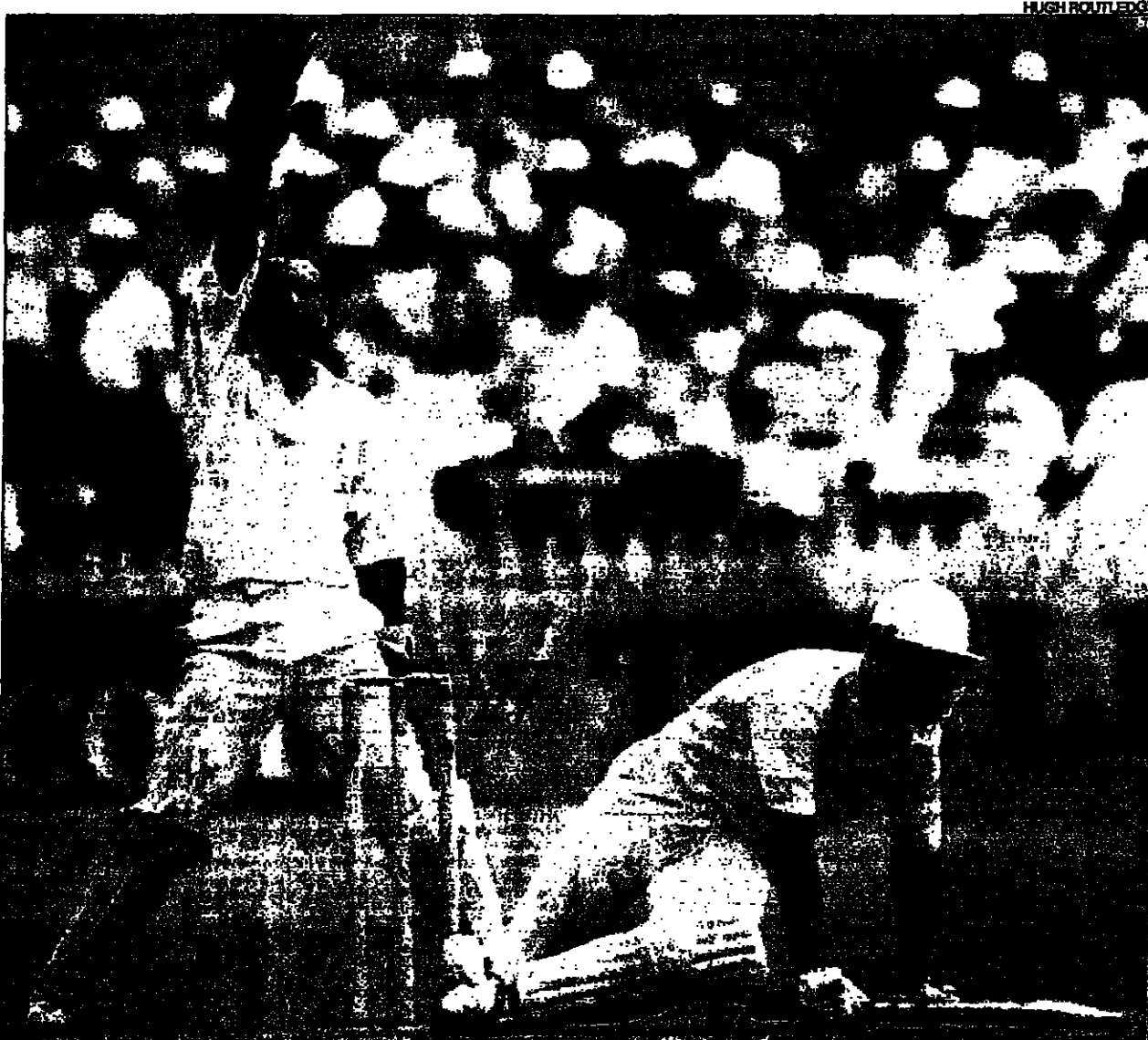
Only Robert Bailey, with a patient 51, lent any kind of support. Early on he was troubled by the bounce and movement Malcolm and Cork imparted on a green-looking, though far from treacherous pitch. In Ian Bishop's persistent absence, and the temporary loss of Ole Mortensen, the six wickets they shared were vital. Lancashire can certainly prepare for a proper contest.

SCOREBOARD

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	
A Forster bow b Malcolm	10
N A Forster bow b Malcolm	10
R J Bailey c Barnett b Cork	51
M B Lamb c Krikken b Cork	60
M B Lamb bow b Vanders	8
D J Capel c Adams b Griffith	12
K M Curran c Cork	12
A Pemberton run out	2
10 Phipps c Barnett b Malcolm	9
J P Taylor not out	2
C E L Ambrose c Adams b Warner	3
Extras (lb 9, w 9, nb 8)	26
Total (53.2 overs)	210
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-22, 3-121, 4-137, 5-160, 6-180, 7-191, 8-197, 9-203	
BOWLING: Warner 9.2-5-19-1; Malcolm 10-2-3-3; Cork 11-0-46-3; Vanders 11-1-46-1; Griffith 9-0-49-1; Adams 3-0-18-0	
DERBYSHIRE	
*K J Barnett b Taylor	61
P D Bowler run out	48
J E Morris not out	48
C J Adams not out	53
Extras (lb 3, w 3, nb 1)	7
Total (52.2 overs)	214
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-102, 2-119, 3-134, 4-140, 5-150, 6-160, 7-169, 8-177, 9-187	
BOWLING: Ambrose 10-2-27-4; Taylor 9.3-3-5-1; Capel 9-0-28-0; Phipps 10-0-49-0; Curran 9-0-49-0; Bailey 8-0-39-0	
Gold awards: J E Morris (Derbyshire) and A A Jones and R Palmer	

so abjectly that Hampshire had won the game by mid-afternoon. The only incident Derby folk recall fondly of that was a brilliant boundary catch by Steve Goldsmith, who is no longer at the club.

Goldsmith was alarmed to hear of his release on a car radio last August. Since then there have been more startling departures, most notably last month when Bob Lark, the chief executive, was sacked, along with two subordinates, to ease Derbyshire's



Down and out: Krikken, of Derbyshire, appeals as Vandrau snares Loye, of Northamptonshire, leg-before

Christie tackles classy opposition

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

LINCOLN Christie and Sally Gunnell, Britain's two Olympic athletics champions, race in individual events for the first time this season tonight when Christie runs a 200 metres and Gunnell a 400 metres hurdles at the Golden Gala grand prix in Rome. Christie has the harder task.

Both eased their way into the season by running relay legs in the meeting at Portsmouth on Saturday. Now for more serious racing, and Christie is in at the deep end.

The Olympic 100 metres champion is running his second distance against Michael Johnson, the world champion, Frankie Fredericks and Robson Da Silva, second and fourth at the Olympics, and Bruny Surin, the world indoor 60 metres champion.

"I would be surprised if they

all beat me," Christie said. "If they beat me over 200 metres, it would not be nice, but if they beat me over 100 metres I would be worried more."

There is no chance of that because, unlike last year, when Christie won the 100 metres in Rome before finishing third behind Fredericks and Johnson in the 200 metres, there is no 100 metres on the programme tonight. He wished there was because he is eager to get his name high in the season's rankings.

His first competitive 100 metres will come this weekend in the Pearl British championships at Crystal Palace, where his opponents will include Colin Jackson, who is forsaking the hurdles for a flat race.

Gunnell's opposition this evening includes two Barcelona Olympic finalists, Vera Ordina, of Russia, and Deon Hemmings, of Jamaica, but nobody came within 1½ seconds of her.

It is the first of six hurdles races she has planned to hone her for the world championships in Stuttgart in August. "I won't panic if I don't win every race," she said. "In Rome I just want to get the feel of the hurdles again."

Gunnell will be especially interested to see how Ordina is shaping up. Though she sees Sandra Farmer-Patrick and Tatyana Ledovskaya as her main rivals again this season, Ordina, she believes, is the one who may shake up the established order. No doubt Rome will bring us the familiar sight of Jackson heading Mark McKoy, but whether he can do so in Stuttgart is another matter. Jackson wins most of

his races but holds none of the three main titles: Olympic, world indoors and world outdoors.

McKoy, who holds the first two, is joined by his fellow Olympic medal-winners, Tony Dees and Jack Pierce, tonight.

David Grindley, the British 400 metres record-holder, will be looking for his first sub-45sec run outside of the Olympics in a field including two men who finished ahead of him in the Barcelona final, Samson Kiur, of Kenya, and Devon Morris, of Jamaica.

Liz McColgan, who defends her 10,000 metres world title in Stuttgart, goes through an exercise in speed enhancement by running in the 3,000 metres. The field includes the Olympic champion, Tatyana Dorovskikh, of Ukraine, and Zola Petersen.

Lillywhite had regained the overall lead despite falling on Horseshoe Pass and missing the main split in the field. His team-mate, Brian Smith, was second, 38 seconds behind, and the winner last year, Conor Henry, of Ireland, a further three seconds adrift in third place.

RESULTS: Eighth stage (Birmingham to Llandudno, 136 miles): 1, J. Lillywhite (GB), 4:40m 45sec; 2, J. McKinnon (GB), 4:45m 45sec; 3, G. Phipps (GB), 4:47m 45sec; 4, G. Lillywhite (GB), 4:48m 45sec; 5, M. Smith (GB), 4:49m 45sec; 6, C. Henry (GB), 4:50m 45sec; 7, D. Morris (GB), 4:51m 45sec; 8, S. Kiur (GB), 4:52m 45sec; 9, Z. Petersen (GB), 4:53m 45sec; 10, V. Ordina (GB), 4:54m 45sec; 11, D. Hemmings (GB), 4:55m 45sec; 12, B. Smith (GB), 4:56m 45sec; 13, P. Farmer-Patrick (GB), 4:57m 45sec; 14, T. Ledovskaya (GB), 4:58m 45sec; 15, M. Johnson (GB), 4:59m 45sec; 16, C. Jackson (GB), 5:00m 45sec; 17, R. Surin (GB), 5:01m 45sec; 18, F. Fredericks (GB), 5:02m 45sec; 19, S. Da Silva (GB), 5:03m 45sec; 20, M. Christie (GB), 5:04m 45sec; 21, P. Bailey (GB), 5:05m 45sec; 22, J. Capel (GB), 5:06m 45sec; 23, K. Curran (GB), 5:07m 45sec; 24, N. A. Forster (GB), 5:08m 45sec; 25, D. Bowler (GB), 5:09m 45sec; 26, J. E. Morris (GB), 5:10m 45sec; 27, C. J. Adams (GB), 5:11m 45sec; 28, R. Palmer (GB), 5:12m 45sec; 29, A. A. Jones (GB), 5:13m 45sec; 30, S. Goldsmith (GB), 5:14m 45sec; 31, B. Lark (GB), 5:15m 45sec; 32, J. E. Morris (GB), 5:16m 45sec; 33, A. A. Jones (GB), 5:17m 45sec; 34, S. Goldsmith (GB), 5:18m 45sec; 35, B. Lark (GB), 5:19m 45sec; 36, J. E. Morris (GB), 5:20m 45sec; 37, A. A. Jones (GB), 5:21m 45sec; 38, S. Goldsmith (GB), 5:22m 45sec; 39, B. Lark (GB), 5:23m 45sec; 40, J. E. Morris (GB), 5:24m 45sec; 41, A. A. Jones (GB), 5:25m 45sec; 42, S. Goldsmith (GB), 5:26m 45sec; 43, B. Lark (GB), 5:27m 45sec; 44, J. E. Morris (GB), 5:28m 45sec; 45, A. A. Jones (GB), 5:29m 45sec; 46, S. Goldsmith (GB), 5:30m 45sec; 47, B. Lark (GB), 5:31m 45sec; 48, J. E. Morris (GB), 5:32m 45sec; 49, A. A. Jones (GB), 5:33m 45sec; 50, S. Goldsmith (GB), 5:34m 45sec; 51, B. Lark (GB), 5:35m 45sec; 52, J. E. Morris (GB), 5:36m 45sec; 53, A. A. Jones (GB), 5:37m 45sec; 54, S. Goldsmith (GB), 5:38m 45sec; 55, B. Lark (GB), 5:39m 45sec; 56, J. E. Morris (GB), 5:40m 45sec; 57, A. A. Jones (GB), 5:41m 45sec; 58, S. Goldsmith (GB), 5:42m 45sec; 59, B. Lark (GB), 5:43m 45sec; 60, J. E. Morris (GB), 5:44m 45sec; 61, A. A. Jones (GB), 5:45m 45sec; 62, S. Goldsmith (GB), 5:46m 45sec; 63, B. Lark (GB), 5:47m 45sec; 64, J. E. Morris (GB), 5:48m 45sec; 65, A. A. Jones (GB), 5:49m 45sec; 66, S. Goldsmith (GB), 5:50m 45sec; 67, B. Lark (GB), 5:51m 45sec; 68, J. E. Morris (GB), 5:52m 45sec; 69, A. A. Jones (GB), 5:53m 45sec; 70, S. Goldsmith (GB), 5:54m 45sec; 71, B. Lark (GB), 5:55m 45sec; 72, J. E. Morris (GB), 5:56m 45sec; 73, A. A. Jones (GB), 5:57m 45sec; 74, S. Goldsmith (GB), 5:58m 45sec; 75, B. Lark (GB), 5:59m 45sec; 76, J. E. Morris (GB), 6:00m 45sec; 77, A. A. Jones (GB), 6:01m 45sec; 78, S. Goldsmith (GB), 6:02m 45sec; 79, B. Lark (GB), 6:03m 45sec; 80, J. E. Morris (GB), 6:04m 45sec; 81, A. A. Jones (GB), 6:05m 45sec; 82, S. Goldsmith (GB), 6:06m 45sec; 83, B. Lark (GB), 6:07m 45sec; 84, J. E. Morris (GB), 6:08m 45sec; 85, A. A. Jones (GB), 6:09m 45sec; 86, S. Goldsmith (GB), 6:10m 45sec; 87, B. Lark (GB), 6:11m 45sec; 88, J. E. Morris (GB), 6:12m 45sec; 89, A. A. Jones (GB), 6:13m 45sec; 90, S. Goldsmith (GB), 6:14m 45sec; 91, B. Lark (GB), 6:15m 45sec; 92, J. E. Morris (GB), 6:16m 45sec; 93, A. A. Jones (GB), 6:17m 45sec; 94, S. Goldsmith (GB), 6:18m 45sec; 95, B. Lark (GB), 6:19m 45sec; 96, J. E. Morris (GB), 6:20m 45sec; 97, A. A. Jones (GB), 6:21m 45sec; 98, S. Goldsmith (GB), 6:22m 45sec; 99, B. Lark (GB), 6:23m 45sec; 100, J. E. Morris (GB), 6:24m 45sec; 101, A. A. Jones (GB), 6:25m 45sec; 102, S. Goldsmith (GB), 6:26m 45sec; 103, B. Lark (GB), 6:27m 45sec; 104, J. E. Morris (GB), 6:28m 45sec; 105, A. A. Jones (GB), 6:29m 45sec; 106, S. Goldsmith (GB), 6:30m 45sec; 107, B. Lark (GB), 6:31m 45sec; 108, J. E. Morris (GB), 6:32m 45sec; 109, A. A. Jones (GB), 6:33m 45sec; 110, S. Goldsmith (GB), 6:34m 45sec; 111, B. Lark (GB), 6:35m 45sec; 112, J. E. Morris (GB), 6:36m 45sec; 113, A. A. Jones (GB), 6:37m 45sec; 114, S. Goldsmith (GB), 6:38m 45sec; 115, B. Lark (GB), 6:39m 45sec; 116, J. E. Morris (GB), 6:40m 45sec; 117, A. A. Jones (GB), 6:41m 45sec; 118, S. Goldsmith (GB), 6:42m 45sec; 119, B. Lark (GB), 6:43m 45sec; 120, J. E. Morris (GB), 6:44m 45sec; 121, A. A. Jones (GB), 6:45m 45sec; 122, S. Goldsmith (GB), 6:46m 45sec; 123, B. Lark (GB), 6:47m 45sec; 124, J. E. Morris (GB), 6:48m 45sec; 125, A. A. Jones (GB), 6:49m 45sec; 126, S. Goldsmith (GB), 6:50m 45sec; 127, B. Lark (GB), 6:51m 45sec; 128, J. E. Morris (GB), 6:52m 45sec; 129, A. A. Jones (GB), 6:53m 45sec; 130, S. Goldsmith (GB), 6:54m 45sec; 131, B. Lark (GB), 6:55m 45sec; 132, J. E. Morris (GB), 6:56m 45sec; 133, A. A. Jones (GB), 6:57m 45sec; 134, S. Goldsmith (GB), 6:58m 45sec; 135, B. Lark (GB), 6:59m 45sec; 136, J. E. Morris (GB), 7:00m 45sec; 137, A. A. Jones (GB), 7:01m 45sec; 138, S. Goldsmith (GB), 7:02m 45sec; 139, B. Lark (GB), 7:03m 45sec; 140, J. E. Morris (GB), 7:04m 45sec; 141, A. A. Jones (GB), 7:05m 45sec; 142, S. Goldsmith (GB), 7:06m 45sec; 143, B. Lark (GB), 7:07m 45sec; 144, J. E. Morris (GB), 7:08m 45sec; 145, A. A. Jones (GB), 7:09m 45sec; 146, S. Goldsmith (GB), 7:10m 45sec; 147, B. Lark (GB), 7:11m 45sec; 148, J. E. Morris (GB), 7:12m 45sec; 149, A. A. Jones (GB), 7:13m 45sec; 150, S. Goldsmith (GB), 7:14m 45sec; 151, B. Lark (GB), 7:15m 45sec; 152, J. E. Morris (GB), 7:16m 45sec; 153, A. A. Jones (GB), 7:17m 45sec; 154, S. Goldsmith (GB), 7:18m 45sec; 155, B. Lark (GB), 7:19m 45sec; 156, J. E. Morris (GB), 7:20m 45sec; 157, A. A. Jones (GB), 7:21m 45sec; 158, S. Goldsmith (GB), 7:22m 45sec; 159, B. Lark (GB), 7:23m 45sec; 160, J. E. Morris (GB), 7:24m 45sec; 161, A. A. Jones (GB), 7:25m 45sec; 162, S. Goldsmith (GB), 7:26m 45sec; 163, B. Lark (GB), 7:27m 45sec; 164, J. E. Morris (GB), 7:28m 45sec; 165, A. A. Jones (GB), 7:29m 45sec; 166, S. Goldsmith (GB), 7:30m 45sec; 167, B. Lark (GB), 7:31m 45sec; 168, J. E. Morris (GB), 7:32m 45sec; 169, A. A. Jones (GB), 7:33m 45sec; 170, S. Goldsmith (GB), 7:34m 45sec; 171, B. Lark (GB), 7:35m 45sec; 172, J. E. Morris (GB), 7:36m 45sec; 173, A. A. Jones (GB), 7:37m 45sec; 174, S. Goldsmith (GB), 7:38m 45sec; 175, B. Lark (GB), 7:39m 45sec; 176, J. E. Morris (GB), 7:40m 45sec; 177, A. A. Jones (GB), 7:41m 45sec; 178, S. Goldsmith (GB), 7:42m 45sec; 179, B. Lark (GB), 7:43m 45sec; 180, J. E. Morris (GB), 7:44m 45sec; 181, A. A. Jones (GB), 7:45m 45sec; 182, S. Goldsmith (GB), 7:46m 45sec; 183, B. Lark (GB), 7:47m 45sec; 184, J. E. Morris (GB), 7:48m 45sec; 185, A. A. Jones (GB), 7:49m 45sec; 186, S. Goldsmith (GB), 7:50m 45sec; 187, B. Lark (GB), 7:51m 45sec; 188, J. E. Morris (GB), 7:52m 45sec; 189, A. A. Jones (GB), 7:53m 45sec; 190, S. Goldsmith (GB), 7:54m 45sec; 191, B. Lark (GB), 7:55m 45sec; 192, J. E. Morris (GB), 7:56m 45sec; 193, A. A. Jones (GB), 7:57m 45sec; 194, S. Goldsmith (GB), 7:58m 45sec; 195, B. Lark (GB), 7:59m 45sec; 196, J. E. Morris (GB), 8:00m 45sec; 197, A. A. Jones (GB), 8:01m 45sec; 198, S. Goldsmith (GB), 8:02m 45sec; 199, B. Lark (GB), 8:03m 45sec; 200, J. E. Morris (GB), 8:04m 45sec; 201, A. A. Jones (GB), 8:05m 45sec; 202, S. Goldsmith (GB), 8:06m 45sec; 203, B. Lark (GB), 8:07m 45sec; 204, J. E. Morris (GB), 8:08m 45sec; 205, A. A. Jones (GB), 8:09m 45sec; 206, S. Goldsmith (GB), 8:10m 45sec; 207, B. Lark (GB), 8:11m 45sec; 208, J. E. Morris (GB), 8:12m 45sec; 209, A. A. Jones (GB), 8:13m 45sec; 210, S. Goldsmith (GB), 8:14m 45sec; 211, B. Lark (GB), 8:15m 45sec; 212, J. E. Morris (GB), 8:16m 45sec; 213, A. A. Jones (GB), 8:17m 45sec; 214, S. Goldsmith (GB), 8:18m 45sec; 215, B. Lark (GB), 8:19m 45sec; 216, J. E. Morris (GB), 8:20m 45sec; 217, A. A. Jones (GB), 8:21m 45sec; 218, S. Goldsmith (GB), 8:22m 45sec; 219, B. Lark (GB), 8:23m 45sec; 220, J. E. Morris (GB), 8:24m 45sec; 221, A. A. Jones (GB), 8:25m 45sec; 222, S. Goldsmith (GB), 8:26m 45sec; 223, B. Lark (GB), 8:27m 45sec; 224, J. E. Morris (GB), 8:28m 45sec; 225, A. A. Jones (GB), 8:29m 45sec; 226, S. Goldsmith (GB), 8:30m 45sec; 227, B. Lark (GB), 8:31m 45sec; 228, J. E. Morris (GB), 8:32m 45sec; 229, A. A. Jones (GB), 8:33m 45sec; 230, S. Goldsmith (GB), 8:34m 45sec; 231, B. Lark (GB), 8:35m 45sec; 232, J. E. Morris (GB), 8:36m 45sec; 233, A. A. Jones (GB), 8:37m 45sec; 234, S. Goldsmith (GB), 8:38m 45sec; 235, B. Lark (GB), 8:39m 45sec; 236, J. E. Morris (GB), 8:40m 45sec; 237, A. A. Jones (GB), 8:41m 45sec; 238, S. Goldsmith (GB), 8:42m 45sec; 239, B. Lark (GB), 8:43m 45sec; 240, J. E. Morris (GB), 8:44m 45sec; 241, A. A. Jones (GB), 8:45m 45sec; 242, S. Goldsmith (GB), 8:46m 45sec; 243, B. Lark (GB), 8:47m 45sec; 244, J. E. Morris (GB), 8:48m 45sec; 245, A. A. Jones (GB), 8:49m 45sec; 246, S. Goldsmith (GB), 8:50m 45sec; 247, B. Lark (GB), 8:51m 45sec; 248, J. E. Morris (GB), 8:52m 45sec; 249, A. A. Jones (GB), 8:53m 45sec; 250, S. Goldsmith (GB), 8:54m 45sec; 251, B. Lark (GB), 8:55m 45sec; 252, J. E. Morris (GB), 8:56m 45sec; 253, A. A. Jones (GB), 8:57m 45sec; 254, S. Goldsmith (GB), 8:58m 45sec; 255, B

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (51977)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7051257)
9.05 Morning Surgery. The latest technology used to detect hypertension and a look at the burgeoning range of home-testing kits for detecting pregnancy, cholesterol and blood pressure. (7051257) 9.20 **Hot Chicks.** Mark Gregory and Alistair Little prepare traditional Japanese cuisine. (8005731) 9.45 **Whatever Happened To...** 7 Jan Leeming looks at the stories that were once headlines. (8107808)

10.00 News (Cesfax), regional news and weather (8042977), 10.06 **Playdays (a)** (7185489) 10.30 **Tales of Suspense.** The Bear and the Travelers (7220795) 10.35 **The Flintstones (a)** (8459606)

11.00 News (Cesfax), regional news and weather (1526118) 11.05 **Knots Landing (a)** (Cesfax) (8415731) 11.50 **The History Man.** Bryan McNeilly is in the border country. (4755847)

12.00 News (Cesfax), regional news and weather (7185575) 12.05 **The Coastguard Odyssey.** The first of a two-part story about the Coastguard's search for the lost island of Atlantis (4052712) 12.55 **Regional News and weather (72351915)**

1.00 One O'Clock News with John Tusa (Cesfax) Weather (18828)

1.30 Neighbours (Cesfax) (8338828) 1.50 Eldorado (a) (Cesfax) (87830712)

2.20 Hawaii Five-O (a) (7222248) 3.10 **Turnabout.** Word quiz (a) (8181915) 3.40 **Uplift.** An appeal on behalf of Marie Curie Cancer Care. (8389441)

3.50 Playdays (a) (7273002) 3.55 **Wibblywash.** The first of two special programmes from Ghana. (8050370) 4.10 **Galaxy Goof-Up (8359888) 4.35 The Mole.** Game. Film and video quiz. (Cesfax) (2252544)

5.00 Newsround (4409977) 5.10 Byker Grove. Episode three of the 20-part children's drama set in a north-east coastal town. (Cesfax) (8045638)

5.35 Neighbours (a) (Cesfax) (8458064) 5.45 **Inside Ulster.** (Cesfax) (87830712)

6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey (Cesfax) Weather (538)

6.30 Regional News Magazine (118) Northern Ireland: Neighbours (87830712)

7.00 Eldorado (Cesfax) (a) (5002)

7.30 Tomorrow's World. In New York presented by Judith Hann, Howard Stabileford and Kate Bellingham. (Cesfax) (a) (642)

8.00 International Athletics. Action from the Golden Mile in Rome, the fifth meeting of the Grand Prix season. (7371)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martin Lewis (Cesfax): Regional news and weather (8783)

9.30 Inside Story: Children Who Kill (Cesfax) (a) See Choice (150170)

10.20 Film: Footloose (1984) starring Kevin Bacon, Lori Singer, John Lithgow and Christopher Penn. An energetic musical drama about an independently-minded Chicago teenager who moves to a rural bible town ruled with a rod of iron by a fundamentalist preacher. Directed by Herbert Ross (152172). Northern Ireland: Belfast Boxers 10.50-12.30 **Film: The Domino Killings**

12.05am Weather (9449887), Ends at 12.10

2.15-3.45 BBC Select: Accountancy Television. Scrambled (472519) 3.15 **Legal Network Television.** Scrambled (79565)

BBC2

7.10 Open University. 18th-century Seamen — Citizens of the World (8049595) 7.35 **Arts: The Great Exhibition of 1851 (1172335)**

8.00 Breakfast News (4651188)

8.15 Westminster (821936)

9.00 Daytime On Two: Tutorial Topics (7510644) 9.15 Ghostwriter (874170) 9.45 You and Me (158151)

10.00 Ulster in Focus (7177480) 10.20 Help Yourself (8454248) 11.00 Words and Pictures (a) (8283373) 12.05 Media Studies for Higher and Modules (8559225) 12.25 Links (8557557) 12.50 Teaching Today (803847) 1.20 Mavin and Maureen's Music-a-Game (a) (1082498) 1.35 Crystal Tips and Alistair 1.40 Zog (83361422)

2.00 News (Cesfax) and weather followed by You and Me (a) (87827428)

2.15 International Tennis. Barry Davies introduces coverage of the Stella Ardeur championship from Queen's Club, London. The commentators are John Barrett, Mark Cox and David Mercer. (81898908) News (Cesfax) and weather at 3.00 and 3.45

6.00 Star Trek: Classic science fiction adventures (a) (Cesfax) (828151)

6.50 Gunsmoke. Vintage western drama series starring James Amoss as Marshal Matt Dillon and, in this episode, Betty Davis as a widow who has waited six years to avenge the death of her husband. (822159)

7.40 Open Space: The Last Straw (Cesfax) See Choice (24054)

8.10 Just Deserts: A Cure for Crime (Cesfax) See Choice (785828)

9.00 Richard Eyre Season: The Insurance Man, by Alan Bennett. An award-winning play loosely based on the life of Franz Kafka, told in flashback from the Prague of 1945 on the eve of the city's liberation by the Russians. Starring Daniel Day-Lewis, Rosemary Martin and Hugh Fraser. (a) (Cesfax) (8784793)

10.15 International Athletics. Further coverage of the Golden Mile from Rome. The commentators are David Coleman, Stuart Storey and Paul Dickinson (803534)

10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow (167830)

11.15 The Late Show. Tracey MacLeod introduces a Special on the jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis. (a) (234286) 11.55 **Weather (958373)**

12.00 The End of Empire. The story of an Indian poem revealing the link between Indian and British cultures (125430)

12.25am Santo Spirit: A Renaissance Church. This Florantine church, the only one designed by Brunelleschi from scratch, was built 40 years after his death (1387887). Ends at 12.55

VideoPlus and the Video Plus Codes
 The numbers next to each TV programme listing are VideoPlus codes. A VideoPlus card can be used with most video recorders to record programmes. To find out more about VideoPlus, call 0204 220424. VideoPlus is a service of the BBC. VideoPlus and the Video Plus Codes are trademarks of VideoPlus Ltd.

Inside Story: Children Who Kill
BBC1, 9.30pm
 The cameras visit the Aycliff Centre for Children, which houses some of Britain's most dangerous young criminals. Appearances can be deceptive. Michelle's room is full of fidgets and cuddly toys and she insists that she loves animals and is sad to see them harmed. Yet she helped to kill a boy with a paraffin bomb. If hers is the most extreme case featured, Tony, who tried to kill his parents by gassing them, is not far behind. Not much is said about the causes of these crimes. The emphasis is on understanding and helping towards rehabilitation. Dr Masud Hognaghi, the centre's director, says the first thing to do with the young criminals is to value them. But to explain their behaviour, he quickly adds, is not to justify it.

Farm support: Duke of Westminster (BBC2, 7.40pm)
Open Space: The Last Straw (Cesfax) See Choice (24054)
 The Duke of Westminster takes over the viewer access to the small-scale sector of British farming community. He argues that the land is not only a living but a way of life and one under increasing threat as farms are sold and family businesses squeezed out. He deplores the fact that young people are being forced to leave the countryside because they cannot afford to live there. One of his witnesses is a clinical psychologist, who describes how stress and isolation make farmers vulnerable to depression and drive some to suicide. The duke addresses himself particularly to town dwellers who tend to see the country only as a place of beauty and have no conception of the tragedies that take place there.

Just Deserts: A Cure For Crime
BBC2, 8.10pm
 Another thoughtful contribution to the *Crime and Punishment* season looks at different approaches to treating criminals over the past 30 years. In the early 1960s the buzz word was treatment. Criminal behaviour was seen as a sickness which could be cured. Rehabilitation was the way forward. But as the film shows, with examples from Britain and the United States, this humane and optimistic approach only patronised the criminal and led to abuses. Perhaps even worse, it showed little sign of being effective. It was replaced by a new idea, or rather an old one brought back. This was retribution, or punishment to fit the crime. But the ideology of just deserts has only led to longer sentences and overcrowded prisons.

Steel Magnolias
ITV, 8.00pm
 Robert Harting's play was set in a Louisiana beauty salon and featured six small-town women mulling over life's ups and downs, with a determination to laugh through the tears. This warm-hearted, sentimental piece ran for years on Broadway, though with less success in London. Herbert Ross's film version makes frequent sorties out of the salon without managing to disguise the stage origins. Its impact depends very much on the excellent cast, which includes Sally Field as a protective mother, an irascible Shirley MacLaine, a cheery Dolly Parton and a wisecracking Olympia Dukakis. There is also Darryl Hannah but the best performance comes from Julia Roberts as a young diabetic.

ITV LONDON

6.00 GMTV. The guests include Karen Drury and Gabrielle Glaister (8714408)

9.25 Cross Wit. Crossword game show hosted by Tom O'Connor (8081422) 9.55 **London Today (Teletext) and weather (761809)**

10.00 Out of this World. American comedy series about a schoolgirl who inherits her alien father's powers. Starring Donna Pescow and Doug McClure. (a) (870225)

10.30 This Morning. Weekday family magazine series (8230198)

12.10 Allsorts. Entertainment for the very young (a) (8649084)

12.30 TYN Lunchtime News (Teletext) and weather (1813712) 1.05 London Today (Teletext) and weather (18127482)

1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama series. (Teletext) (880489) 1.45 **A Country Practice.** Medical drama set in the Australian outback (a) (82460)

2.15 The View. Lord Grossman with another collection of viewers' comments on ITV programmes (844441) 2.45 **Take the High Road.** Highlands-based drama series (2723854)

3.10 News headlines (2203373) 3.15 London Today (Teletext) and weather (2202544) 3.20 The Young Doctors. Drama series set in an Australian city hospital (7328880)

3.50 Scooby Doo (a) (8054286) 4.15 **Round the Bend.** Puppet and animation fun (a) (a) (8383847) 4.40 **The Lodge.** Episode nine of the ten-part drama series about children in care (a) (1082335)

5.10 Home and Away (a). (Teletext) (8686844) 5.40 **Evening News (Teletext) and weather (855858)**

6.00 London Tonight (Teletext) (25644)

7.00 Lifebeat. Last in the series following a year in the lives of members of the Salcombe, Devon, lifeboat crew (a) (8070)

7.30 Coronation Street (Teletext) (170)

8.00 Film: Steel Magnolias (1989). (Teletext) (a) See Choice (9915)

10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald. (Teletext) Weather (84400) 10.30 **London Tonight (Teletext)**

10.40 US Cup 93 Soccer Tournament. Live coverage from Boston of England's opening match, against the United States. In the tournament which also includes Germany and Brazil. The commentators are Alan Parry and Rodney Marsh. Plus highlights from today's World Cup qualifying games between Latvia and the Republic of Ireland and Holland v Norway and also rugby union news from New Zealand and South Africa (50322287)

1.00 Gimme Shelter. Various versions of the Rolling Stones hit including the Stones themselves performing the song in 1989. (a) (27687)

1.30 Entertainment UK. Weekly leisure time guide (a) (81325)

2.30 America's Top Ten presented by Richard Blade (a)

3.00 The Little Picture Show. Film and video reviews introduced by Marjella Frostup. (a) (85519)

4.00 60 Minutes. American news magazine (a) (8213)

5.00 RTN. French drama series (51792)

5.30 ITV Morning News (83331). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.15 I Love Lucy (b/w). Vintage American domestic comedy series starring Lucille Ball (18880)

6.45 Spiff and Hercules. Cartoon adventures of a quacking cat and dog (2779422)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (82151)

9.00 You Bet Your Life (a) (88808)

9.30 Schools (872170)

12.00 The Parliament Programme. Anne Perkins with a report on business in both Houses (81373)

12.30 Sesame Street. Entertaining early-learning series. The guest is violinist Itzhak Perlman. (a) (47731)

1.30 Sandokan. Animated adventures of a pirate prince (a) (18538)

2.00 Film: Condemned (1929, b/w) starring Ronald Colman. Drama about a bank robber who is sentenced to serve his time on the French penal colony of Devil's Island. He is chosen by the governor to be his house servant, a position that brings him into contact with the governor's wife (Ann Harding). Directed by Wesley Ruggles (294441)

3.35 The Three Stooges in Genes Without Guns (1944, b/w) (3400083)

3.55 Pottery Ladies. A portrait of Charlotte Rhead, the 1920s pottery designer. (a) (366373)

4.30 Fifteen To One. Fast-moving general knowledge knock-out quiz. (Teletext) (a) (553)

5.00 Get It Together. A documentary short about a wheelchair-bound sports coach (a) (8047986)

5.25 Film: Fighting Back (1982) starring Robert Urich. A made-for-television biopic of Pittsburgh Steelers footballer Rocky Bleier who, after being seriously injured in the Vietnam war, made a remarkable come-back. Directed by Robert Lieberman. (Teletext) (7773103)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (400199)

7.50 Party Political Comment by a Liberal Democrat politician (26737)

8.00 Brookside. Topical soap set in suburban Merseyside. (Teletext) (a) (7460)

8.30 Survival: The Fall of Squirrel Nutter. Did the arrival of the American grey squirrel hasten the demise of Britain's native red variety? (a) (Teletext) (3257)

9.00 Dispatches. A documentary investigation into safety standards at the country's adventure holiday camps in this country (33782)

9.45 Four-Matrons: Aspects of Comedy. Closing the short animation season are two Bob Godfrey films — *All, Bill & Fred* and *Whatever Happened to Uncle Fred?* (82712)

10.00 The Golden Palace. Comedy series spin-off from the *Golden Girls*. (Teletext) (a) (82022)

10.30 Sin with Bruce Forsyth. A British comedian winner of the Parrier Award for Comedy continues his examination of the seven deadly sins (a) (448287)

11.05 ENQ. Canadian drama series about a television newswriting team. (Teletext) (481606)

12.05am The Saw Doctors. The Irish band in concert in their home town of Tuam. (a) (4835128)

1.10 Film: As if I'm Not Here (1989). A Hindi drama about the son of a poor labourer who uses his gift of photographic memory to outwit the wealthy pupils of the school where he works. Directed by Tapan Sinha. In Hindi with English subtitles (1339132). Ends at 2.35

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
 As London except: 2.15-2.45 Gardening Time (705441) 5.10-5.40 **Blockbusters (889489) 1.45 Home and Away (809487) 2.15-2.45 Antiques Roadshow (718380) 1.00 Film: Desperate Moments (870213) 2.35 Cinema.** Cinema (867131) 3.00-3.10 **Minutes (830293) 4.00 Cus the Music (83381) 4.30 Cinema (86552) 5.00-5.30 Johnnie (51782)**

BORDER
 As London except: 2.15 **Out of Limits (835808) 2.45-3.00 Country Pathways (705441) 3.00-3.10 Film: Desperate Moments (870213) 3.10-3.20 **Blockbusters (889489) 1.45 Film: Desperate Moments (870213) 2.35 Cinema.** Cinema (867131) 3.00-3.10 **Minutes (830293) 4.00 Cus the Music (83381) 4.30 Cinema (86552) 5.00-5.30 Johnnie (51782)****

CENTRAL
 As London except: 1.15 **A Country Practice (889489) 1.45 Home and Away (809487) 2.15-2.45 Gardening Time (705441) 3.00-3.10 Film: Desperate Moments (870213) 3.10-3.20 **Blockbusters (889489) 1.45 Film: Desperate Moments (870213) 2.35 Cinema.** Cinema (867131) 3.00-3.10 **Minutes (830293) 4.00 Cus the Music (83381) 4.30 Cinema (86552) 5.00-5.30 Johnnie (51782)****

GRANADA
 As London except: 1.15 **A Country Practice (889489) 1.45 Home and Away (809487) 2.15-2.45 Gardening Time (705441) 3.00-3.10 Film: Desperate Moments (870213) 3.10-3.20 **Blockbusters (889489) 1.45 Film: Desperate Moments (870213) 2.35 Cinema.** Cinema (867131) 3.00-3.10 **Minutes (830293) 4.00 Cus the Music (83381) 4.30 Cinema (86552) 5.00-5.30 Johnnie (51782)****

HITV WEST
 As London except: 1.15 **A Country Practice (889489) 1.45 Home and Away (809487) 2.15-2.45 Gardening Time (705441) 3.00-3.10 Film: Desperate Moments (870213) 3.10-3.20 **Blockbusters (889489) 1.45 Film: Desperate Moments (870213) 2.35 Cinema.** Cinema (867131) 3.00-3.10 **Minutes (830293) 4.00 Cus the Music (83381) 4.30 Cinema (86552) 5.00-5.30 Johnnie (51782)****

HITV WALES
 As London except: 1.15 **A Country Practice (889489) 1.45 Home and Away (809487) 2.15-2.45 Gardening Time (705441) 3.00-3.10 Film: Desperate Moments (870213) 3.10-3.20 **Blockbusters (889489) 1.45 Film: Desperate Moments (870213) 2.35 Cinema.** Cinema (867131) 3.00-3.10 **Minutes (830293) 4.00 Cus the Music (83381) 4.30 Cinema (86552) 5.00-5.30 Johnnie (51782)****

MERIDIAN
 As London except: 2.15-2.45 **Loud and Clear (84441) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (808) 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters (228)**

TYNE TEES
 As London except: 2.15-2.45 **Van Can (885294)**

COOK (84441) 5.25 Tins Today (80487) 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters (228) 1.00 American Gladiators (1038594) 1.50 Hollywood Reporter (704828) 2.30 **Videomotion (80487) 3.00-3.10 Film: Desperate Moments (870213) 3.10-3.20 **Blockbusters (889489) 1.45 Film: Desperate Moments (870213) 2.35 Cinema. Cinema (867131) 3.00-3.10 **Minutes (830293) 4.00 Cus the Music (83381) 4.30 Cinema (86552) 5.00-5.30 Johnnie (51782)******

ULSTER
 As London except: 1.15 **A Country Practice (889489) 1.45 Home and Away (809487) 2.15-2.45 Gardening Time (705441) 3.00-3.10 Film: Desperate Moments (870213) 3.10-3.20 **Blockbusters (889489) 1.45 Film: Desperate Moments (870213) 2.35 Cinema.** Cinema (867131) 3.00-3.10 **Minutes (830293) 4.00 Cus the Music (83381) 4.30 Cinema (86552) 5.00-5.30 Johnnie (51782)****

WESTCOUNTRY
 As London except: 2.15-2.45 **Westcountry Focus (84441) 3.00-3.10 **Blockbusters (889489) 1.45 Film: Desperate Moments (870213) 2.35 Cinema.** Cinema (867131) 3.00-3.10 **Minutes (830293) 4.00 Cus the Music (83381) 4.30 Cinema (86552) 5.00-5.30 Johnnie (51782)****

YORKSHIRE
 As London except: 2.15-2.45 **Van Can (885294) 6.00 Yorkshire Today (80487) 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters (228) 1.00 American Gladiators (1038594) 1.50 Hollywood Reporter (704828) 2.30 **Videomotion (80487) 3.00-3.10 Film: Desperate Moments (870213) 3.10-3.20 **Blockbusters (889489) 1.45 Film: Desperate Moments (870213) 2.35 Cinema.** Cinema (867131) 3.00-3.10 **Minutes (830293) 4.00 Cus the Music (83381) 4.30 Cinema (86552) 5.00-5.30 Johnnie (51782)******

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
 6.00am The DJ (a) (8051933) 8.00 **Lamb Chop Play-Along (838170) 9.10 **Cantors (218188) 9.30 The Pyramid Game (870213) 10.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 10.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 11.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 11.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 12.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 12.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 1.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 1.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 2.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 2.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 3.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 3.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 4.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 4.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 5.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 5.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 6.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 6.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 7.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 7.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 8.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 8.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 9.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 9.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 10.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 10.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 11.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 11.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 12.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 12.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 1.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 1.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 2.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 2.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 3.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 3.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 4.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 4.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 5.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 5.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 6.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 6.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 7.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 7.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 8.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 8.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 9.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 9.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 10.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 10.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 11.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 11.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 12.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 12.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 1.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 1.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 2.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 2.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 3.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 3.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 4.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 4.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 5.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 5.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 6.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 6.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 7.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 7.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 8.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 8.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 9.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 9.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 10.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 10.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 11.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 11.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 12.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 12.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 1.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 1.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 2.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 2.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 3.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 3.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 4.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 4.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 5.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 5.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 6.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 6.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 7.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 7.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 8.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 8.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 9.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 9.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 10.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 10.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 11.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 11.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 12.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 12.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 1.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 1.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 2.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 2.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 3.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 3.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 4.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 4.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 5.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 5.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 6.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 6.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 7.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 7.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 8.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 8.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 9.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 9.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 10.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 10.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 11.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 11.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 12.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 12.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 1.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 1.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 2.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 2.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 3.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 3.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 4.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 4.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 5.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 5.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 6.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 6.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 7.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 7.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 8.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 8.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 9.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 9.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 10.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 10.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 11.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 11.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 12.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 12.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 1.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 1.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 2.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 2.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 3.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 3.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 4.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 4.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 5.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 5.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 6.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 6.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 7.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 7.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 8.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 8.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 9.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 9.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 10.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 10.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 11.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 11.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 12.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 12.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 1.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 1.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 2.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (870213) 2.30 **Star Trek: The Next Generation (8**

SPORT

WEDNESDAY JUNE 9 1993

Taylor gives Clough his chance to shine



Clough: mentally tough

FROM ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN BOSTON

THE security net, and the nervous tension, tightens like a clamp around England as the players prepare for tonight's US Cup '93 match against the host nation. Four motorcycle outriders, three Boston State police cars and a helicopter accompany England on every journey, from their secluded country hotel to the school playing fields where they train to the Foxboro stadium, where they will attempt to prevent the unthinkable, a repeat of the American victory over the mother country of football that occurred in Belo Horizonte 43 years ago.

Because the forces of law and order are taking this rehearsal for a possible World Cup occurrence next year seriously, a couple of FBI and CIA agents are in the convoy as well. To win that right, England will have to defeat Poland, Holland and San

Marino in the autumn. Although no World Cup point is on the line in New England tonight, the state of England's morale and the reshaping of their team could be critical.

All eyes have been on Graham Taylor. He began by treating those journalists who were so critical of him after the appalling display in Oslo last week with the suspicion of a badger coming out into the light. But, being Taylor, he became expansive towards the end. As he spoke, it was notable that Sir Bert Millichip, the Football Association chairman, was hovering in the background studiously eyeing Taylor.

The formation for tonight's match is untried. The captain is Paul Ince — it is the first time he has led a team of any sort, he becomes the first black man to captain England and surely the first player to take that honour one match after serving a suspension and two matches after he had effectively

been labelled by his manager "a headless chicken".

Yet, with David Platt and Des Walker late arriving from their Italian clubs, something new had to be tried. Additionally, Taylor had always intended the US Cup to be a platform for experimentation, a chance for the fringe players to prove whether they are genuine England material.

Thus, in central defence, are Gary Pallister and Carlton Palmer, in midfield, David Batty adding his tier-like determination and, wide on the left, Lee Sharpe, offered a more conventional attacking role than the one that submerged him against Norway.

The most interesting selection is Nigel Clough, a week after joining Liverpool for £2 million, who has the freedom of the mobile situation behind the front-runners. It is, as the nation knows to the point of boredom, the position designated for Paul Gascoigne.

Nobody has Gascoigne's marvel-

lous inventive flair and none but he can put a stop to the self-destructive habits that are bringing Taylor close to the end of his tolerance. Clough has this opportunity to demonstrate that his intelligent passing, his ability to make the play, can provide a credible alternative. Clough has preferred politely to say nothing until after he has performed. Wise man.

Taylor, though, spoke of the player's "brave decision" to leave his only club, Nottingham Forest. "He's a tough lad mentally," Taylor said, "but Nigel is also an intelligent and a sensitive boy. He has seen other players leave Forest and things not go well for them. He had one cap before I became manager. He now has ten and this could be the turning point in Nigel's career."

Ahead of him is a man who has had more burning points than perhaps the whole of the rest of the team put together, from a winger, then a withdrawn, defensive wing

back to a full striking role. John Barnes will form, with Les Ferdinand, the attacking pair and, one day surely, England will find a harmonious relationship from their forwards instead of relying so much on the poaching prowess of Platt from midfield.

It is hard to believe that, no matter how much the English players are struggling with their minds and confidence, the United States can repeat the 1-0 shock they achieved in the World Cup in 1950. Indeed, the Americans are having troubles integrating their own. They have a squad of young college graduates billeted in a purpose-built training camp at Mission Viejo, in California, under the wily Serbian coach, Bora Milutinovic, and now have eight European-based players ready to come in and reinforce the group — among them two Premier League players, John Harkes, of Sheffield Wednesday, and Roy Wegerle, of Coventry City.

Harkes, like Clough, made his

performance do the talking when he was singled out by the Brazilian manager, Carlos Alberto Parreira, after Brazil, at almost walking pace, defeated the United States 2-0 in the opening match of the tournament on Sunday.

Wegerle, whose contribution in a match in which the Americans took 55 minutes to shoot at goal, was negligible, nevertheless felt given to assert afterwards: "We have nothing to fear from England. They do not have the gifted players able to turn on movement and style in all areas of the field."

Maybe not, but after Oslo, rest assured there will be bursting lung-power and no effort spared to try to avenge for such a wretched England display.

ENGLAND: C Woods (Sheffield Wednesday); L Dixon (Aston Villa); G Platt (Nottingham Forest); C Palmer (Sheffield Wednesday); A Dingo (Leeds United); N Clough (Liverpool); D Batty (Leeds United); P Ince (Manchester United); L Harkes (Sheffield Wednesday); R Wegerle (Coventry City); J Barnes (Liverpool).

Barnett trouble, page 42

Wasim bowls Lancashire into cup final

By IVO TENNANT

LEICESTER (Lancashire won toss): Lancashire beat Leicestershire by 110 runs

AS THEY did in the 1970s, Lancashire have worked out the limited-overs game to the extent that they have no peer. In winning this Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final yesterday, they were inconvenienced more by a dreadful pitch than their opponents.

They will meet Derbyshire in the final at Lord's on July 10, their fourth one-day final in as many years, three of them in this competition. There is no reason why more should not follow.

In Neil Fairbrother, their captain, Lancashire have arguably the finest batsman in this form of the game. Beyond any doubt, they have in Wasim Akram the best all-rounder. Yesterday, the pair vied with each other for the Gold Award.

It was given to Fairbrother for his third half-century of the season. Interestingly, not one of these has been in first-class cricket, which might explain why he is so often regarded as principally a one-day batsman.

Only Whitaker looked likely to keep Leicestershire in

contention — until Wasim accounted for him in his telling second spell. All Wasim's five wickets, taken in a nine-ball spell costing two runs, were leg-before or bowled, which says something about how accurate he was. Barnett took three important upper order wickets, not least that of Boon, who was stumped off his third ball. After that, Leicestershire went quietly.

So Fairbrother's unbeaten 64, made off 80 balls, was the innings of the day. This was chance batting, unless you include the electronic eye afforded to the electronic eye when he was on 43. Umpire Plews was on immediately to the third umpire, Chris Balderstone, to judge whether Mullaney's flat throw from long leg had beaten Fairbrother to the striker's end.

Balderstone's verdict, relayed back over the walkie-talkie, was that the batsman should be given the benefit of the doubt. Seeing as Plews himself was undecided and hence would have done the same, nothing had been gained and a few minutes lost.

Tony Brown, one of the Test and County Cricket Board's officials at the ground, discussed the worth of the third umpire with Plews and the other official, Hampshire, afterwards. The board will consult with the Australians later this week whether or not to employ one in the remainder of the Test series.

Yesterday, the ball did not come on to the batsman and, even if it had, there was markedly little bounce. Atherton was in for 27 overs for his 33, and it turned out to be one of the more prominent innings. He was out through the ball stopping on him and attempts by Speak, Lloyd and Wasim to do something about the scoring rate ended in catches in the deep.

Watkinson, who later stuck to his medium-pace style, never really got going. Yet Fairbrother dabbled the ball around the field through his customary improvisation and, with 17 coming off the final over, Lancashire had a total to defend.

Derbyshire joy, page 42
Defeatist England, page 42

SCOREBOARD

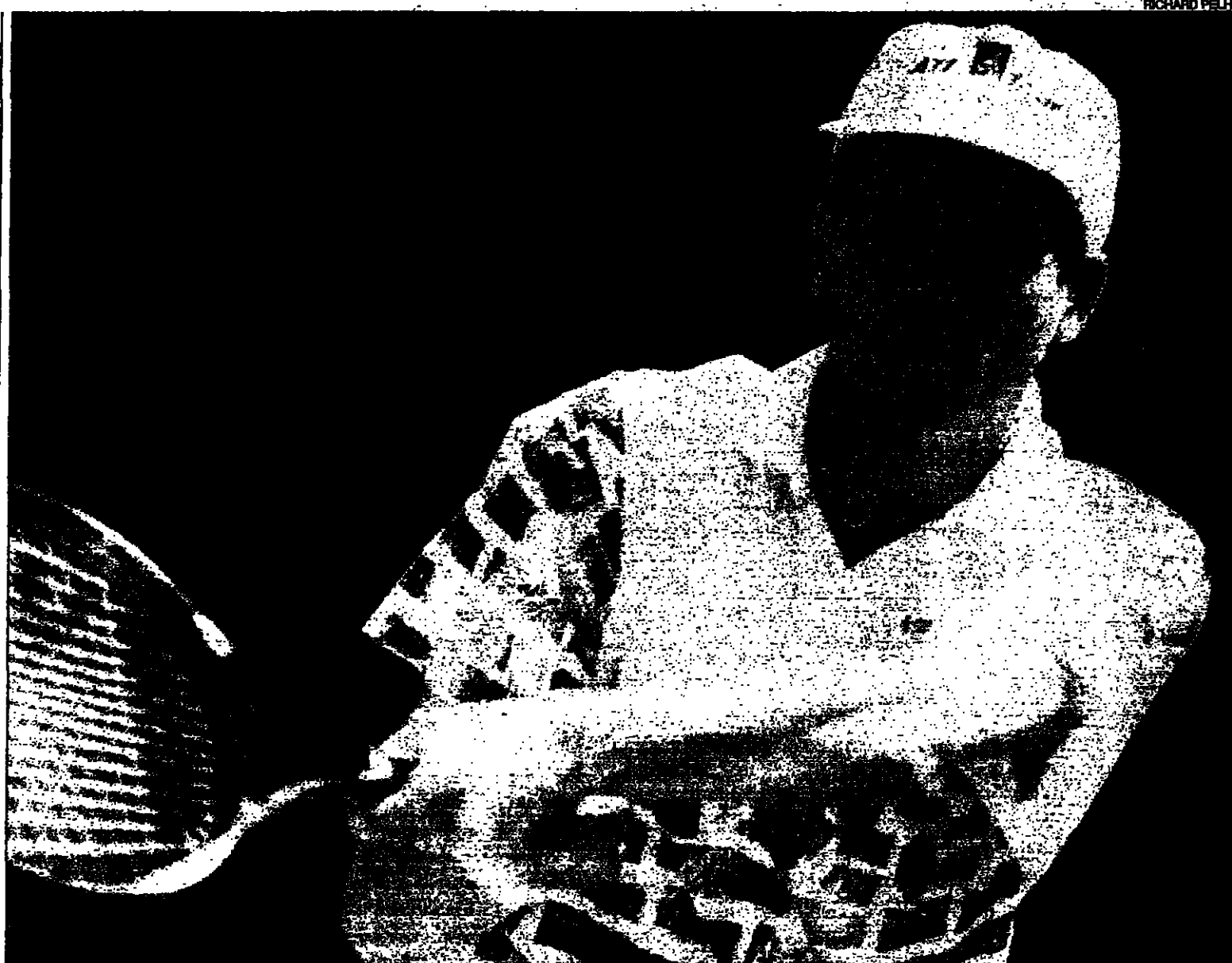
LANCASHIRE
G D Mendis c Robinson b Mullaney 11
M A Atherton c Smith b Parsons 33
N J Speak c Boon b Wasim 17
T H Fairbrother not out 64
G D Lloyd c Smith b Parsons 34
Wasim Akram c Robinson b Parsons 5
M Wasternson b Wasim 16
P A J DeFreitas not out 17
Extras (lb 13, w 4, nb 4) 21
Total (6 wickets, 55 overs) 278
WV H Hogg, LD Auzan and AA Barnes did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS 1-26, 2-66, 3-102, 4-153, 5-176, 6-201
BOWLING Bonyman 11-0-46-0, Mullaney 11-1-44-1, Porter 11-2-35-0, Parsons 11-4-21-3, Wasim 11-1-59-2

LEICESTERSHIRE
D Boon c Hogg b Barnett 21
N E Briers c Hogg b DeFreitas 32
J J Whitaker c Wasim 35
P E Robinson b Barnett 5
B F Smith b Auzan 7
L Paine c Auzan b Barnett 6
W K M Benjamin bow b Wasim 1
V H Wallis not out 10
P A Hounslow b Wasim 10
G D Mullaney c Wasim 10
Extras (lb 6, w 2, nb 4) 12
Total (40 overs) 106

FALL OF WICKETS 1-19, 2-47, 3-59, 4-72, 5-86, 6-93, 7-93, 8-108, 9-108
BOWLING DeFreitas 6-0-12-1, Auzan 9-2-10-1, Watkinson 7-0-30-0, Wasim Akram 9-2-10-4, Barnett 11-0-43-3

Gold award: N H Fairbrother (Lancashire)
Umpires: N T Plews and J H Hampshire



Winning way: Chris Wilkinson, ranked No 2 in Britain, on his way to beating Goran Ivanisevic, the fourth seed, at Queen's Club yesterday

Ivanisevic surprised by Wilkinson

By STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE big guns were brought into the Stella Artois tennis championships at Queen's Club yesterday but three of them were spiked — Goran Ivanisevic, the fourth seed, Ivan Lendl, the fifth, and Jakob Hlasek, the thirteenth. Moreover, two of them were knocked out by Britons.

Chris Wilkinson, the British No 2, eliminated Ivanisevic but his thunder was stolen late in the gloriously sunlit afternoon by Ross Matheson. In beating Hlasek, he created a small piece of history: Never before has Britain been represented by three players — Jeremy Bates is the other — in the second round.

Matheson, a 6ft 5in Glaswegian, was educated at Millfield before moving onto Oklahoma and Arizona State universities, where he studied economics and, although he

left six months before graduating, the subject has become his greatest concern. Since turning professional less than a year ago, he admits that his balance sheet has been "negative".

His reward for reaching the second round, in which he will play David Witt, of the United States, is £2,903. It has also gained him more points on the Satellite Tour in one day than he had in the previous eight months.

Matheson could be awarded one of the two wild cards which have still to be filled by the Wimbledon organisers. He is ranked No 563 in the world and his 6-3, 7-6 victory was "far and away" the best of his brief career. He happened to finish it on his knees as Hlasek, facing a match point, failed to take advantage of Matheson's slip.

Wilkinson considered a career in football until unsuccessful trials with Southampton, his home-town club, and Aston Villa persuaded him otherwise. Tennis "has, at times, not seemed to him the most convincing of alternative professions."

Whereas others practised assiduously during the build-up to the tournament, his idea of prime preparation was to go on holiday. The carefree policy appeared misguided when he stood two points away from going out in the first round.

He felt he had nothing to lose then. Nor did he against Ivanisevic, a finalist at Wimbledon last year. Rather than being frightened by the renowned power of the Croat, Wilkinson had been excited by the prospect of beating him.

In spite of losing the second set, he won by breaking early

in the third and holding his nerve to go through 6-3, 2-6, 6-3. Without wishing to make excuses, Ivanisevic said that he had been distracted by the death of his close friend, Drazen Petrovic, the Croatian basketball player, in a car crash in the previous night in Germany. "Mentally, I wasn't there," he said.

Lendl is in the depressing habit of losing to everyone he meets. He was knocked out in the first round of the Italian and French opens and here by Byron Black, a 23-year-old Zimbabwean.

Lendl went down in straight sets, 6-2, 7-5, and is so out of form and touch that, as was once the case with Wilkinson, he might soon be prompted to think of giving up the game.

Results, page 40
Navratilova battles, page 42

Gibbs and Barnes join Lions injured

FOUR days before the first international match of their series against New Zealand, in Christchurch on Saturday, the British Isles rugby union team yesterday lost two key midfield players during their 34-16 defeat of Scotland, in Invercargill. The casualty list is such that the Lions management will not announce the match XV until tomorrow.

Scott Gibbs, the Swansea centre, sprained an ankle and will need a week to recover; this leaves the Lions with only one fit centre, Jeremy Guscott, and makes it vital that Will Carling recovers from a groin injury. Scott Hastings suffered a facial injury against Otago last weekend and is to return home. His replacement, Vinny Cunningham, arrives in Christchurch today.

Stuart Barnes, the stand-off half, suffered a head wound against Scotland and his prospects of playing on Saturday are poor. Rob Andrew was led from Rugby Park, his nose streaming blood. Andrew also has a badly raked thigh to go with the knee injury he collected against Canterbury last week. It is an apt moment for the reinforcements, Cunningham and Martin Johnson, the Leicester lock, to arrive.

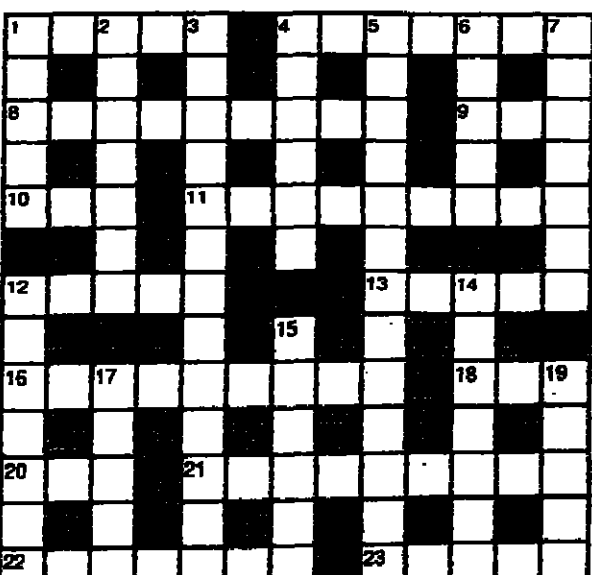
Unconvincing Lions, page 40

Omega Speedmaster Automatic.
Chronograph with date.
Scratch-resistant sapphire glass.
Water-resistant to 30 m.
Available in 18 k gold or in steel.
Swiss made since 1848.



OMEGA
The sign of excellence

STOCKED AT LEADING JEWELLERS.
HARRODS, WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND, SELECTED
BRANCHES OF MAPPIN & WEBB,
GOLDSMITHS, WALKER & HALL AND ERNEST JONES.
FOR YOUR NEAREST STOCKIST TEL: 071 611612



CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: The Times & Sunday Times Crosswords on computer for all IBM PCs and featuring the NEW IBM PC VGA version with super enhanced graphics. For a limited period £10.70 each. The Times Crosswords — Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 14, 15 & 16. The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 10 & 11 (Bk). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 1 & 2. Prices inc p&p (UK). Cheques to A Kent Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Return delivery. Tel 081-852 4575 (24 hrs).

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3117

ACROSS

- 1 Cut (5)
- 4 Trinidad ballad (7)
- 8 Doodler (9)
- 9 Sicken (3)
- 10 Sixth note (3)
- 11 Ulster lodge member (9)
- 12 Aspirations (5)
- 13 Projecting roof edges (5)
- 16 Of no value (9)
- 18 Race start (3)
- 20 University holiday (3)
- 21 Hastily arrange (9)
- 22 Red brown deer (7)
- 23 Attempt (5)

DOWN

- 1 Rope fibre plant (5)
- 2 Dirigible (7)
- 3 Offer or nothing (7,6)
- 4 Basement (6)
- 5 Tarzan (4,9)
- 6 Church song (5)
- 7 Stretched rectangles (7)
- 12 Yet (7)
- 14 First/second strings (7)
- 15 Spicy seasoning (6)
- 17 Inspection (5)
- 19 Flaming (5)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3116

ACROSS: 1 Snap up 3 Clothe 8 Swig 9 Ninepins
10 Woggle 12 Robe 15 Benazir Bhutto 16 Stud
17 Reeled 19 Peroxide 21 Back 22 Defend 23 Not apt
DOWN: 2 New Forest 3 Pug 4 Pandemic 5 Cant
6 Opposite 7 Hun 11 Grandiose 13 Buttercup
14 Aberdeen 18 Find 20 Eye 21 Bur

WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

CAVENDISH

- a. A tandem horse carriage.
- b. A tobacco cake
- c. A large ashet

CRINET

- a. A hair
- b. A drag net
- c. A lace cravat

This position is from the game Short — Gelfand, Brussels 1991. Not all winning moves appear like volcanic eruptions. Sometimes a quiet move can be the most deadly, and today's game is a case in point. Can you see white's subtle winner?



Solution on page 40

Championship Chess, page 6

PATACOON

- a. A sweet potato
- b. A silver coin
- c. A Jamaican coconut drum

NIMIETY

- a. Excess, redundancy
- b. Modesty
- c. Lasting half a year

Answers on page 42

